

THE TIMES

No. 66,477 FRIDAY APRIL 2 1999 http://www.the-times.co.uk



Maundy euros? The fight to keep sterling silver page 20

TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES **Sex and drugs and sticky-back plastic**

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

How the BBC covers the war *media times* pages 42-45 FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS token page 28

US outrage at PoW show trial

America will stand by her own

By Michael Evans, Tom Walker and Ian Brodie

THREE bruised and battered American soldiers, snatched by Yugoslav troops across the border from Kosovo, are to appear at a show trial in Belgrade today.

The sight of the three men on Yugoslav state television looking shocked and haggard caused outrage across the United States and President Clinton said that President Milosevic would be held personally responsible for their safety.

He said: "There was absolutely no basis for them to be taken and there is no basis for them to be held. There is certainly no basis for them to be tried. President Milosevic should make no mistake, the United States takes care of its own. We will hold him and his government responsible for their safety and well-being."

The three were named as Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, 24, from Los Angeles, Staff Sergeant James Stone, 25, from Michigan, and Specialist Steven Gonsalves, 24, from Texas. All are cavalry scouts serving with the 4th Infantry Division based in Schweinfurt, Germany.

They were grabbed in their Humvee vehicle as they were carrying out a routine reconnaissance mission in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They were described as operating for the United Nations, but the UN put out a statement last night pointing out that its mandate in Macedonia had expired. Nevertheless, Nato insisted that the men were well inside Macedonia, while Belgrade claimed that they had strayed into Kosovo.

The capture — the second propaganda coup in a week for the Yugoslavs after the downing of an American Stealth fighter — caused celebrations in Belgrade. And there was another setback for Nato yesterday when Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate leader of the ethnic Albanians, was seen on Yugoslav state television in a meeting with Mr Milosevic in Belgrade.

There had been fears for his life when he disappeared last week, but he emerged yesterday saying that he was under the protection of Serb forces.

He later appealed for an end to the Nato bombing campaign and called for a political solution. But his appearance was denounced by fellow Kosovo rebels who said that he had been captured and was speaking under duress.

In a further blow to Nato, Moscow confirmed yesterday that intelligence information gleaned by a reconnaisance ship on its way to the Mediterranean would be passed to Belgrade to help it counter the air campaign.

The fate of the three American soldiers, however, was the greatest concern for the alliance yesterday. David Leavy, a National Security Council spokesman, said: "We're thankful that the servicemen are alive, but clearly the signs that they have been mistreated are very disturbing."

An official protest was delivered to the Swedish Government which represents American interests in Belgrade and the Yugoslav authorities were warned to treat the three soldiers in accordance with the Geneva Convention, even though neither side has formally declared war.

Under the convention, prisoners are supposed to be fed, unharmed, taken care of and not exploited for propaganda purposes. Washington has asked that a neutral party be allowed to see the three men.

The soldiers had reported in a radio message from their Humvee vehicle that they were surrounded and in a small arms fight. Whether they later escaped and drove in the wrong direction or escaped on foot was unclear, General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said. A manhunt was launched, but the next thing American officials knew was the three men's television appearance.

If convicted of spying at the court martial, the three could face up to 20 years in jail, according to new provisions set up under the state of emergency in Yugoslavia. However, in an extraordinary interview on BBC World Service last night, the Serb paramilitary leader Arkan gave his word that they would come to no harm.

He said: "They are brave soldiers, they have been fighting, they didn't want to surrender and I said thanks be to God that they are alive." Arkan, an indicted war criminal, went on to say that they had "put up a fight", adding: "The Yugoslav Army is keeping them and they'll be treated under the Geneva Convention. They will be well treated, don't you worry."

General Nebojsa Pavkovic, the commander of the Yugoslav unit that grabbed the soldiers, assured those involved that they "would become legends in the history of Serbia".

Nato meanwhile announced that it would continue stepping up the air campaign against Yugoslavia and the first indication of the new expanded targeting strategy became apparent when a bridge over the Danube at Novi Sad, was destroyed, blocking all traffic on one of Europe's busiest waterways.

Despite Nato claims yesterday that eight days of bombing had caused substantial damage to Yugoslavia's military infrastructure, the supreme commander General Wesley Clark confirmed that discussions were under way about a possible limited ground troops operation to set up a sanctuary for civilians in Kosovo.



Jason Pike and Steven Gonsalves, right, photographed by *Stars and Stripes* at their observation post near the Yugoslav border and, inset, Gonsalves as he appeared on Yugoslav television yesterday with Andrew Ramirez, left, and James Stone, centre

■ The American soldiers captured by Serb forces were part of a cavalry scout reconnaisance unit which was given high-profile coverage only yesterday (Roger Boyes writes). Specialist Steven Gonsalves was featured in a photograph in the US forces' newspaper *Stars and Stripes* at an observation post near the Yugoslav-Macedonian border. Although US authorities denied any connection between the article and the capture, the tenor of the report was prescient. "Easy targets", said the front page headline, "hostile Serbs let troops know they are not welcome". The 400-strong force had been running observation posts as part of a UN monitoring operation. Last month, however, the six-year-old mission was cancelled, the white UN vehicles were repainted Nato green, and blue berets swapped for US Army helmets. The Serbs must have registered this switch and, as the paper said, identified the "easy targets".

ON OTHER PAGES

Premiers issue a challenge of peace for Ulster

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

TONY BLAIR and Bertie Ahern challenged Unionists and republicans to adopt a radical new plan for implementing the Good Friday peace accord yesterday after marathon talks failed to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament.

At the end of four days and more than 40 hours of negotiations at Hillsborough Castle, the British and Irish Prime Ministers published their joint plan, sent the parties away for a 12-day "pause for reflection", and effectively defied them to reject it. Both leaders insisted it provided the "basis for agreement".

The plan sets out a complex sequence of events designed to break the impasse caused by the IRA's refusal to disarm, and David Trimble's refusal to admit Sinn Fein to government until it does. It calls IRA disarmament an "obligation" that should be completed within two years, and says Sinn Fein has acknowledged that obligation.

Mr Trimble, the First Minister, gave the plan a cautious welcome, even though it does not explicitly insist on the prior decommissioning he has been demanding. Gerry Adams was more guarded, reiterating that he could not deliver IRA disarmament.

Mr Adams in particular will face a tough task persuading his republican constituency to back the plan, but any party that rejects it when the talks resume on April 13 would no longer be challenging a rival party but the two governments themselves.

The four-page document

Continued on page 2, col 5

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 50; Belgium B Frs 110; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 400; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 22.00; Finland Fmk 30.50; France FR 17.00; Germany DM 5.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 750; Netherlands Fl 6.50; Italy L 5.000; Luxembourg Lf 110; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 80c; Morocco Dir 30.00; Norway Kr 25.00; Portugal Esc 350; Spain Pts 400; Sweden Skr 25.00; Switzerland S Frs 6.00; Tunisia Din 3.200; USA $3.50.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Rahway NJ Postmaster: Send address corrections to: The Times c/o Mercury International 365 Blair Road Avenel NJ 07001.

13

War criminal weeps for an old age in jail

By Tim Jones and Alan Hamilton

ANTHONY SAWONIUK was given two life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday after becoming the only person to be convicted in a British court of Nazi war crimes.

The former British Rail ticket collector broke down and wept as the jury announced its first verdict, that almost 60 years ago he had murdered two Jewish men and a woman and pushed their bodies into an open grave. Four hours later, they returned and by a majority of 10-1 said he had also been guilty of ordering 15 Jewish women to strip and face an open grave before killing them with a sub-machine gun.

Jewish groups said that at last "justice had been done". The mandatory life sentences passed by Mr Justice Potts mean that 78-year-old Sawoniuk [illegible] wrath of other prisoners. Towards the end of the eight-week trial, the judge had ordered him to be detained for security reasons in Belmarsh Prison, East London. There, for four nights, he was subjected to constant taunts by other inmates as they goose-stepped and gave Nazi salutes.

After being told of this, the judge granted him bail until the verdicts yesterday when he was returned to Belmarsh. On his last day of freedom, an angry Sawoniuk threw stones at photographers waiting for him to leave for court.

His war crimes took place in Domachevo, Belarus, when he became one of the first to join the local police force established by the Nazis after they over-ran the town in 1941. The judge ordered Sawoniuk, who [illegible] the hierarchy of those involved in the liquidation of Jews in Eastern Europe, but to the Jews of Domachevo it must have appeared otherwise."

Sawoniuk had faced four specimen charges under the War Crimes Act 1991. They stated that he had committed murders "in circumstances constituting a violation of the laws and customs of war". Two charges were dropped on the instruction of the judge because of lack of corroborative evidence. Sawoniuk was implicated in other murders.

He claimed that he had been a friend of the Jews. In the court's public restaurant, he was overheard expressing his hatred of them. The defence is considering an appeal. The jurors are to be excused jury service for their lives.

Unseasonal sun, seasonal jams

By Stephen Farrell and Adam Sherwin

SUN worshippers fleeing the cities for Easter yesterday encountered huge traffic congestion, with the consolation that they are likely to enjoy near-record temperatures when they reach their destinations.

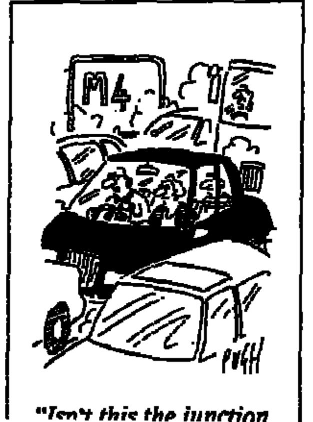
Tailbacks stretched for 18 miles on the M4 after a lorry overturned near Reading.

Motoring organisations reported heavy congestion on many major routes in unseasonally high temperatures of 21C, with the M5 at a standstill and ten-mile tailbacks on the A30 near Exeter.

The M25 around London was also badly affected. Problems in Essex were exacerbated by a protest staged by lorry drivers against fuel and vehicle tax rises. A convoy of more than 50 HGVs embarked on a crawl along the M25.

AA Roadwatch said: "We estimate 10 million cars will take to the roads across Britain over the four-day holiday."

The Meteorological Office expects temperatures to rise to 22C (72F) on Easter Day and Bank Holiday Monday. Although 1.5 million Britons are expected to fly overseas, temperatures in Britian topped those in mainland Europe yesterday.



"Isn't this the junction

SAWONIUK VERDICT

Spelling error nearly led to killer's escape

BY TIM JONES

A SIMPLE error in transliteration almost ensured that Anthony Sawoniuk was never called to account for his crimes.

Because of the misspelling, after an intensive year-long hunt the trail grew cold and the War Crimes Unit established by Scotland Yard became convinced that he was not living in Britain. In April 1992, they wrote to the Home Office to stay they were taking him off their list of 376 war crime suspects.

But then, after being briefed by a historian about Russian spelling, they revisited the National Immigration Centre and saw that he had entered Britain in 1946.

Armed with the fresh lead, the historian Alastair MacLeod, one of two experts on the Nazi Holocaust who had been drafted on to the team, visited Brest, in Belarus, where he discovered KGB records that revealed Sawoniuk's bloodstained past.

Unbeknown to Sawoniuk, who was leading an unremarkable life in London, the damning file had been started by a KGB "extraordinary commissions" unit that visited Domechevo in 1944, after the Nazis had been driven out, to ask questions about who had been fighting for the Germans.

In 1951, five years after he en-

THE HUNT

tered Britain as a member of the Polish Free Army, Sawoniuk had made the fatal mistake of writing to his half-brother, Nikolai, who still lives in Poland, to tell him of his new life beyond the Iron Curtain.

The letter, which was routinely opened by the KGB, established that Sawoniuk was living with his third wife, Christina van Ghent, on the South Coast of England. The KGB took no action but they never forgot.

More than 30 years later, in the early 1980s, the KGB were able to update their files on him when they intercepted another letter. This had been sent by a man named Stephan Androsiuk who died more than three years ago in a car crash. Writing from London to his sister who still lives near Brest, he mentioned that he was acquainted with Sawoniuk.

As Sawoniuk neared retirement in 1986, he probably thought he would never be called to account for the mass murders he committed. But he was about to become unwittingly caught up in the political turmoil sweeping the Soviet Union.

Mikhail Gorbachev was introducing *glasnost* and *perestroika*, and Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister, declared he was a man with whom she could do business. In the glow of the new relationship, the Soviet Embassy in 1988 provided the British Government with a list of more than 100 suspected war criminals, one of whom was Sawoniuk.

Even then, Sawoniuk was safe, for there was no mechanism to bring him to justice. That changed in 1991 when, in the face of opposition from the House of Lords, the War Crimes Act of 1991 was introduced and a War Crimes Unit set up by Scotland Yard. Armed with the list, the team began to track down Sawoniuk.

The KGB had told them the man they needed to hunt was Andrey Andreyevich Savanyuik. The way they transliterated his surname, particularly the use of the letter "v" instead of the letter "w", almost ensured his escape.

Using computers, the Scotland Yard team entered the letters "Sav" into the files of more than 15 government agencies from the Inland Revenue to the Department of Social Security. They drew a blank.

Believing they had exhausted every avenue the team informed the Home Office that Sawoniuk did not exist. Again, it seemed that fate had conspired to save Sawoniuk but his luck was running out.

The Yard, told of the possible different spellings of the name, looked again at the immigration files and Mr MacLeod, a fluent Russian speaker who works for the United Nations War Crimes Commission, flew to Brest. There, searching through dust-covered sacks and boxes, he uncovered the file that was to send Sawoniuk to prison.

In March 1996, Sawoniuk's life of lies and denial began to crumble when, 54 years after his crimes, he answered a knock on his door. Detectives were waiting to interview him.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, page 24

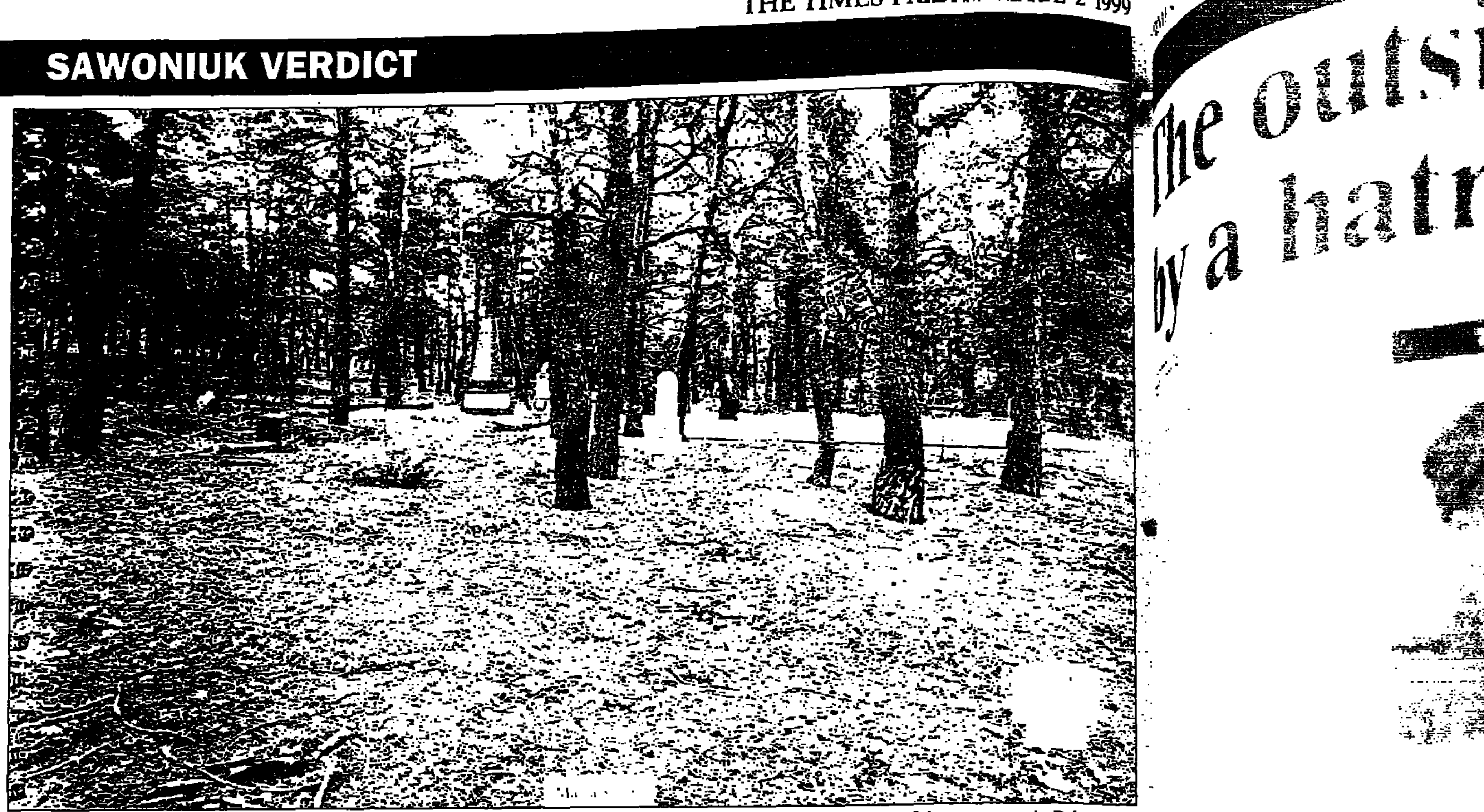
FIRST STOP A HIGH-SECURITY JAIL

Anthony Sawoniuk spent last night at Belmarsh high security prison. (Stewart Tendler writes).

The jail, in southeast London, holds some of the toughest prisoners in the country. However, at the age of 78, Sawoniuk is destined for the hospital wing at another jail.

Prison officials say that he will spend some time at Belmarsh in a special unit for lifers, where he will be assessed. He is then likely to go to a prison with a sophisticated health care unit, as he suffers from diabetes and heart disease. One possibility is Wormwood Scrubs, which has a unit for lifers as well as a medical centre, or another large prison in the Home Counties.

Healthy, older life prisoners are held at Kingston prison, near Portsmouth, where almost half the inmates are over 70. The prison's E wing provides a quieter regime for prisoners: the oldest inmates are held there.



The memorial marking the mass grave where the Jews of Domachevo were murdered, during the Nazi occupation of the town, now in Belarus

The only trial out of 393 suspects

Tim Jones looks at the results of eight-year manhunt that changed British justice and cost £11million

ANTHONY SAWONIUK was the first and probably will be the only war crimes defendant to face a British murder trial. His trial also made legal history when the jury became the first to be taken abroad to view the scene of a crime.

Now one man remains under inquiry out of 393 suspects investigated by British police. A decision has not been made on his future but it is expected that he will not face trial for the alleged murder of a Jew in Ukraine. After an eight-year manhunt costing more than £11 million, Britain's efforts to track the Nazi killers of the last war is now certain to be closed down.

Two junior officers remain at Scotland Yard from a team that once numbered 18, including detectives and war historians. All the officers were seasoned investigators, accustomed to dealing with the London underworld, but many were appalled and moved by the stories they heard from the survivors of the Holocaust. One detective chief inspector visited Auschwitz in mid-winter and later recalled how he suddenly realised how terrible conditions must have been.

Former Detective Superintendent Eddie Bathgate, who headed the investigation when it was launched, said from the very beginning that the biggest problem was time. The crimes took place so long ago that police had to prove not only that a suspect was the man they were looking for but also that he was the war criminal that the Holocaust survivors believed him to be.

The possibility of a war crimes unit was raised 13 years ago when the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, established to find Nazis who had escaped justice, sent the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, the names of fugitives who were said to be living in Britain.

Mrs Thatcher launched a war crimes inquiry, headed in England by Sir Thomas Hetherington, former Director of Public Prosecutions, and in Scotland by William Chalmers, the Crown Agent. After examining 301 allegations, they decided that there was a "realistic prospect" of convictions and the Government brought in legislation.

The possibility of a retrospective law met uncompromising opposition from the Lords, where speakers argued that nothing would be gained by opening old wounds. When the Lords refused for a second time, in May 1991, to give the War Crimes Act a second reading, the Government invoked the Parliament Act to force it on to the statute book.

Nineteen days after the law was passed, the Yard opened its unit. Officers received information from a wealth of sources including the former Soviet Union and war crimes units in the United States, Canada and Australia.

In all, 376 cases were identified by the Yard and another 17 were investigated by Scottish officers. The investigators found themselves wading through records of scores of thousands of people who came to and left Britain after the war. Officers visited 20 countries at a cost of £6.5 million.

The detectives discovered that 117 of the men involved were dead and in 257 cases inquiries have been dropped, either through insufficient evidence or because the suspects were too ill to be inverviewed and prosecuted.

The only other prosecution came in April 1996, when Szymon Serafinowicz was committed for trial from Dorking Magistrates' Court to the Central Criminal Court to answer allegations that he had murdered Jewish civilians in Belarus. In January the following year, a jury found him unfit to stand trial and the Attorney-General entered a permanent stay on the prosecution because of his failing mental health. He has since died.

Moves to prosecute war criminals in Scotland ended after the Lord Advocate ruled against prosecutions even though a man named in the Wiesenthal list had lost a libel trial against Scottish Television. Antanas Gecas, a retired mining engineer from Edinburgh, was accused of having been the head of a murder squad involved in annihilating thousands of Jews in Lithuania and Belarus.

The judge in the libel trial said that he was satisfied Gecas was involved in the murder of elderly men, women and children. The Crown abandoned its criminal case in 1994 and inquiries involving another 16 Scottish suspects were also dropped.

Domachevo's police station. In 1941, Sawoniuk joined the local force set up by the Nazis

'Time does not lessen the guilt'

REACTION

JEWISH groups greeted the conviction of Antony Sawoniuk with satisfaction that "justice has been done".

The Jewish rights campaigner Lord Janner of Braunstone, QC, said: "This evil man was accorded a fair trial, which is more than he gave his victims. The Nazis did not try their victims, they murdered them."

Lord Janner, a founder member of the All-Party War Crimes Group, added: "I am sorry that so many other war criminals who sadly found refuge in Britain have so far escaped justice. This trial and the jury's just verdict has vindicated our war crimes procedure.

"This trial is a symbolic beacon relighting memories of the hideous barbarities of the past. It reminded us all of the dangers that flow from allowing racist dictators to rule, and there could be no better time for that reminder than now."

The Jewish Information and Media Service said the verdict "is to be welcomed as an unfortunate necessity". Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, its director, said: "It is not pleasant to have to take an elderly man to court, but it is even less pleasant to think of the murders of which he is accused going unpunished.

"Mere passage of time does not make a guilty person less guilty. If Myra Hindley's crimes had only just been discovered now, it would be inconceivable that she would be told that she need not face any charges as the murders happened so long ago."

He described the War Crimes Act, under which Sawoniuk was prosecuted, as "legislation of justice rather than vengeance".

"At a time when war crimes are being committed in Kosovo and elsewhere, this prosecution in Britain will give a powerful message to President Milosevic that people have to face the consequences of their actions, now or later, for the way in which they made others suffer.

"Conversely, lack of prosecution would have undermined the credibility of the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague and implied that those involved in war crimes today might go unpunished in the future."

Neville Nagler, Director-General of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "Justice has finally been secured for the Jewish inhabitants of Domachevo murdered by Sawoniuk and the Nazis. His trial and conviction have finally justified the cost and effort involved in bringing war criminals to justice."

The Crown Prosecution Service said: "This has been a remarkable trial in many ways. Its successful conclusion is the result of close co-operation between the CPS and Metropolitan Police and is also a tribute to the courage and resilience of the witnesses."

Challenge over the Ulster deadlock

Continued from page 1

the ten ministerial posts should be shared out, but no power devolved to the new executive pending a "collective act of reconciliation" that would take place within one month.

That act would involve the paramilitaries putting some arms "beyond use on a voluntary basis", further moves by the government towards demilitarisation, and ceremonies of remembrance for all victims of violence. The intention would be to remove any suggestion that the IRA was engaging in an act of surrender, or capitulating to Unionist demands.

The plan says that "around the time" of that act of reconciliation, London would devolve power to the executive and all other institutions in the Good Friday accord, including the cross-border bodies, would come into force. It offers Unionists the assurance that if there is no decommissioning the assembly would not confirm Sinn Fein's two ministers.

The Prime Ministers published their plan at the end of 20 hours of non-stop talks that saw hopes of a deal rise and fall almost by the hour, and it helped to deflect attention from the fact that today's third deadline for establishing the executive will be missed.

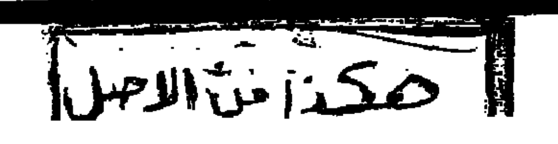
However, there are obvious perils in adjourning the talks, even for a few days. The accord's political opponents will have time to rally against a plan that would clearly involve major compromises by both Mr Trimble and Sinn Fein. Loyalist paramilitary splinter groups bent on wrecking the accord may step up their bombing campaign to make it yet harder for the IRA to contemplate disarmament.

Mr Blair called the plan "another huge and significant milestone on the road to our destination", and said he was convinced the parties would all back it.

Both Mr Blair and Mr Ahern put the best face on their failure to meet today's deadline. Mr Blair said the parties were "absolutely wedded" to the accord, and praised their positive, constructive approach. Mr Ahern said he was now certain that "the spirit of democracy contained in the Good Friday accord will win out against all of the negative and destructive forces we have had to deal with over the years".

Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, denounced the "April Fools Contract" as another fudge whose "act of reconciliation" lent credibility to terrorists.

Adams's task, page 19



The outsider driven by a hatred of Jews

Illegitimate child turned into a sadist who relished his role in genocide, reports **Tim Jones**

ALTHOUGH he is now a sick old man, there was a moment at the Old Bailey when it was easy to see why, almost 60 years ago, the Jews that Anthony Sawoniuk persecuted so ruthlessly had good cause to fear him.

It came when he was questioned about his membership of the Waffen SS by Sir John Nutting, QC. Shaking with rage, the veins in his neck throbbing, Sawoniuk roared out his denial. His voice booming across the court, he said that he had more sympathy *for animals than the witnesses* against him.

For many people in the little village of Domachevo in 1942 it was this mindset that condemned them to death.

Sawoniuk had kept his past a secret since arriving in Britain in 1946 by adopting what one senior policeman described as a life of "classic anonymity". Since 1986, when he retired from his job as a British Rail ticket collector at London Bridge station, his life has been lonely and dull.

On most days, he would leave his shabby flat on a run-down council estate in Bermondsey, southeast London, to go window shopping. He cut a pathetic figure limping along on his walking stick, half-blind, half-deaf, diabetic and with a bad heart. He could not even turn for help to his son, a 38-year-old civil servant who lives in London.

The two became estranged many years ago, before Sawoniuk's fourth wife, his son's mother, died in 1995. Last night, the son, who is married with two children, said: "My father left my mother within months of my birth and I have nothing to do with him.

"There is nothing I can say on this because I do *not know the man ... I* have never discussed it with him."

Sawoniuk was born in Domachevo in 1921 and brought up to speak mainly Polish, although he had some Russian and a smattering of Yiddish. His mother, who took in washing for Jewish people, died when he was very young. Sawoniuk never knew his father, and he lived with his grandmother and half-brother, Nikolai, in a two-room wooden shack.

Nikolai now lives in a small Polish village not far from Domachevo. Although the two have not spoken for years, Nikolai, who was briefly a member of the local police force during the war, defends his brother and refuses to accept that he was a war criminal.





Sawoniuk in uniform: he was a policeman before joining the SS

Even by the standards of the local peasants who lived by trading their produce with the Jewish people who ran the town as a spa resort, Sawoniuk and his family were poor.

He was regarded as little more than a street child, and earned a pittance from the Jews for lighting fires, chopping wood or fetching water from wells on the Sabbath.

Ragged and almost illiterate, he hated the Jews because of their comparative success. To most people in the village, he was known as Andrusha, but because his parents never married he was also routinely described as "the bastard".

Within days of the German invasion in June 1941, Andrusha, a powerfully built 20-year-old, was one of the first to volunteer for the police force the Nazis established. They gave him a gun, a uniform, food, and a *chance to vent his spleen.*

Making no secret of his hatred of the Jews, he patrolled the barbed wire ghetto to which they were confined with an obsessive zeal and delighted in subjecting them to humiliation and cruelty. A few days after the massacre of 2,900 men, women and children on the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur in September 1942, he ordered 15 Jewish women to strip and stand in front of a pit before murdering them with a sub-machinegun. He also forced one of the witnesses against him, Fedor Zan, to stand by as he shot three Jews, two men and a woman.

Loathed and feared by the Gentiles who were eventually the only people remaining in the town, he took command of the local force in December 1943 when his first wife was killed by partisans.

But the tide of war was turning and the Russians advancing. Accompanied by another woman, Nina, whom he is believed to have married, Sawoniuk retreated in July 1944 with the German forces. The following month he joined the 30th Waffen SS division in Poland and was transferred in November to another SS regiment.

He deserted in France and joined the 10th Hussar Regiment of the British Army's Polish Corps, serving with them in Egypt and Italy.

He landed in Britain in June 1946, disembarking from a troop ship. Living in Hove, East Sussex, in December 1947, he married his third wife, whom he divorced in 1951. She told police that she left him because of his violence. In 1954, he moved to London to work as a hospital porter.

In the 1950s he applied for citizenship through a solicitor as he could not write. He was sent the documents but could not sign them as he was then in a mental hospital after a nervous breakdown.

He applied again in 1994, but was turned down as he was not from a Commonwealth country.



MARK ST GEORGE

Sawoniuk grins after being cleared of two of the murder charges earlier this month

Haunted by memories of atrocities

BY TIM JONES

LIKE ghosts from a hidden past, elderly men and women appeared at the Old Bailey to haunt Anthony Sawoniuk with memories of his crimes.

He raged against them, calling them liars, denying that he had ever known them. But their memory of his cruelty was clear, their scars too deep to have properly healed.

In the words of William Clegg, QC, for the defence, it was one of the most emotional trials in British history — a fact proved by the testimony of Ben-Zion Blustein, one of the few Jews who survived the horrors of Domochevo.

As Mr Blustein, 76, who now lives in Israel, gave his evidence, some women in the court wept and others on the jury wiped tears from their eyes.

Mr Blustein, glaring at Sawoniuk, said: "This trial has come 50 years too late. I came here as a mouth for the ... ns of hundreds of people killed by this man. I came to be their voice."

He said that on the eve of Yom Kippur in September 1942, he, his mother, stepfather, young brother and sister had squeezed into a tiny freezing trench they had dug beneath their home in the ghetto, rather than answer the roll call that spelt death for 2,900 men, women and children.

In the darkness, he said, freezing and without food or water for days, the family decided to commit suicide. His stepfather drank a bottle of *morphine and succeeded in* killing himself but the powdered drugs the rest of them took caused them only to writhe in agony.





Witnesses, clockwise from top left: Ben-Zion Blustein, Fedor Zan, Fedora Yakimuk and Alexander Baglay





On the orders of his mother he left and was spared by the Germans because he was good at working with horses. He never saw his family again.

In contrast to Mr Blustein, who was well dressed and seemed prosperous, Fedor *Zan, 75, who still scratches a* living as a peasant farmer near Domochevo, seemed to be almost overawed by the pomp and solemnity of the court.

However, his evidence was clear as he recounted the main atrocity committed by Sawoniuk. He told the jury that, soon after the main massacre, he was walking through woods when he heard Jewish women wailing.

From a hiding place behind bushes, he said, he saw Sawoniuk order 15 women to remove their clothes as they stood before an open grave, and then kill them with bursts from a sub-machinegun.

Damning evidence also came from Alexander Baglay, who recalled how he and a schoolfriend had been arrested by Sawoniuk because they were scavaging for clothes in the deserted ghetto.

Mr Baglay, 69, said that Sawoniuk had forced him and his friend to accompany him to where three Jewish people — two men and a woman — were standing before an open pit. Sawoniuk ordered the three to undress and then shot them in the head with a pistol, pushing them into the pit as they fell.

Even Gentiles were not safe: one day, *Fedora Yakimuk, 73,* told the court that Sawoniuk, who knew her well, did nothing to help as she kissed the feet of a German soldier who was threatening to shoot her because he mistook an iodine stain on a bandage on her arm for the yellow mark that Jews were forced to wear. She was saved only because the soldier ripped off the bandage to reveal her wound.

Another woman, Galina Puchkina, 68, said that as an 11-year-old girl she was in the Catholic church on the day of the main massacre when the congregation was ordered out to witness the Jews being marched to their death. Later, she said, at a time when Sawoniuk had become commandant of the local police force, she and her family fled to the forest after being told that they could be shot because of their *suspected support for* partisans.

At times, in the civilised atmosphere of court 13, the tales of a European nightmare that happened before any member of the jury was born were difficult to comprehend.

If, deep down, Anthony Sawoniuk's conscience was pricked by the evidence of Mr Blustein and that of the simple, dignified peasants, it never showed. To him, they were all liars. He had been their friend and defender, and he was the victim of a bizarre plot between Scotland Yard and the KGB.

The jury's still out on the delights of Domachevo

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Indian restaurant in the Belarussian frontier town of Brest is said to be the best of its kind between Warsaw and Moscow. It is also probably the only one of its kind, an unexpected oasis of exotic food among the unrelentingly stolid cuisine of the Steppes.

Sadly, the jury in the Sawoniuk trial, on their ground-breaking visit to the distant scenes of old crimes, were denied the pleasures of a chicken tikka masala amid the snows of Eastern Europe. But Mr Justice Potts had warned them, before they left the comfort and warmth of the Old Bailey for their 1,000-mile journey, that the historic expedition would be no holiday.

Counsel were *under* no such restraints. Sir John Nutting, QC, and William Clegg, QC, men with appetites as sharp as their legal brains, discovered the restaurant within *moments* of arriving in the otherwise dour town, and happily shared a table with their entire legal teams at the end of a day's adversarial business in sub-zero temperatures.

The eight men and four women of the jury, forbidden the risk of contagion with reporters or any others with whom they might be tempted to discuss the case, were not so lucky. During their two nights in Brest, the nearest civilisation to the village of Domachevo, they were held virtual prisoners in the Intourist Hotel, a hostelry exuding all the charm of a tax office.

The judge, a kindly man, took pity and hosted a drinks party for them. Otherwise they were constrained to their own floor in the dingy inn, court staff taking it in turns to guard against intruders.

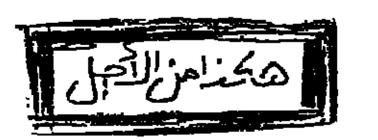
Who they were expecting to intrude was unclear. The only visible threat came from the elegant, lanky prostitutes who plied openly for trade in the hotel's bar and lobby. Whatever they might have wished to discuss with the jurors, it was unlikely to have been the finer points of the trial.

The judge cut quite a dash as he conducted his court in the open air around the village of Domachevo and in a nearby wood, with snow deep on the ground. He wore a jaunty, red, pointed hat with ear-flaps as though it were an Arctic-grade judicial wig.

Sir John Nutting strode about in the manner of a grand Shakespearean actor-manager, clad in an expensive-looking full-length coat of leather and suede. Despite the court being in full session and subject to all the usual Old Bailey rules, even in a Belarussian village street, Sir John felt no compunction about puffing on his pipe. William Clegg, an altogether more rotund and avuncular figure, adopted an informal approach. He wore a brightly-patterned Austrian ski jacket with a hood which he raised over his head on occasions when the freezing Siberian wind blew.

The convoy of three coaches carrying judge, jury, legal teams, court officials and press battled its way back from Belarus to the relative civilisation of Warsaw in a blizzard. For their pains, the jury were rewarded with a coach tour of the Polish capital, in which historic buildings are thin on the ground thanks to the combined efforts of the Wehrmacht and the Red Army.

It was indeed hardly the holiday that the jury would have chosen. Their only consolation was that the taxpayers, not they, were paying for it.



Montenegro military chief replaced by Milosevic ally



Rumours of an imminent coup fuel panic in tiny republic, writes Janine di Giovanni in Podgorica

THE tiny Yugoslav republic of Montenegro was dragged a step closer to the war in the Balkans yesterday, after its military chief was replaced by a supporter of President Milosevic. The reaction of the people bordered on panic as stories of a coup d'état circulated throughout the capital.

Earlier this week President Djukanovic admitted: "There is a serious and authentic danger that even our state could disappear and burn down in the violence."

Last night, the Government, under great pressure to toe the Belgrade line, called emergency meetings.

"The next four or five days will be critical to Montenegro," said Drasko Djunarovic, editor of *Monitor*, the first independent weekly magazine in Serbia and Montenegro.

The news of President Milosevic replacing the popular General Milorad Martinovic with General Milorad Obradovic was frightening. "I don't think it's good," Mr Djunarovic said. "It suggests there is a fear of the military. I do think there is danger."

The theory here in the capital is that General Martinovic was replaced because he did not comply with Mr Milosevic's hard line on defending Yugoslavia against Nato attacks. Montenegro has refused to recognise itself as being in a state of war and has maintained a delicate balance between satisfying Mr Milosevic while keeping long-term options to the West open.

Privately, government officials have admitted to journalists that their hope is for Nato to crush Mr Milosevic, but publicly they must condemn the strikes. "It is obvious we play this game here," one source said. "We have to."

Montenegro is important to Mr Milosevic. The Yugoslav Navy is based in the Bay of Kotor, in addition to an estimated 12,000 Yugoslav troops, 80 per cent of whom come from Serbia.

The police force — most of whom are loyal to the President — number around 10,000 and includes a Special Force division of around 2,400. In addition, most Montenegrans are armed.

Some residents are not waiting to find out how the power struggle will be resolved.

Maja has been crying for three days. She is worried about her mother, who arrived on the last domestic flight here from Belgrade just in time for the first airstrike last week, and who stoically refuses to leave Montenegro, no matter what happens. Maja is worried about the daily, anti-Western and pro-Milosevic rallies in Podgorica which grow more and more frenzied, and the fact that Sky News and CNN were taken off the air and replaced by Serbian state television. Today, Maja gets her Croatian transit visa and is leaving the country as soon as she can.

Most people feel that Montenegro will eventually go the way of the other former Yugoslav republics and opt for independence. But they know it will not be without a fight. Mr Milosevic has lost Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and if he loses Kosovo, the Serb holy place, it is inevitable that he will want to salvage Montenegro. The question is when.

Some people here believe a coup d'état will take place within 48 hours, others say that it will not happen while Mr Milosevic is embroiled in Kosovo.

"The Government will change," says Zoran Zizic, the Vice President of SNP, the pro-Milosevic party, adding that the change of army commanders was a first step. "But now is not the time. We will be elected democratically, and we will get in, because people here are patriotic."

But others are not so sure. "My worry is that these [pro-Milosevic] demonstrations will move from gatherings in front of the American Cultural Centre and go further into town, which will provocate the police," said Mr Djunarovic. "But you will know something has happened when you see tanks in front of the presidential building. Then you can join all of us fighting in the Montenegran Army."

SANTIAGO LYON / AP



A refugee reaches the Albanian border yesterday after an all-night drive on an open tractor to flee Serb forces

Serbs wipe out rebel resistance in two-pronged onslaught

Daniel McGrory in Macedonia and Sam Kiley in Albania predict defeat for the KLA guerrillas

THE Kosovo Liberation Army, the rebel force fighting for independence from Yugoslavia, is only days away from complete military destruction after a fierce Serb offensive in the province.

According to military sources and members of the guerrilla army on the Macedonian and Albanian borders, lightly armed rebels have suffered huge casualties and face defeat unless they can receive reinforcements, ammunition and heavy weapons capable of taking on Serb armour.

The KLA are reported to be retreating to their hideouts in mountain caves in the far north of the region as Serb armour pushes them out of most cities and towns.

Poor weather in recent days has hampered airstrikes on the 400 tanks the Serbs are believed to be using in Kosovo. Sources say they have driven the KLA from the vital Dreznica triangle west of Pristina.

The main battle now is reported to be further south, at Malisevo, where KLA units are massed. Serb forces were last night said to be manoeuvring to cut them off from east and west.

A senior source for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe said last night: "There are two wars going on simultaneously inside Kosovo. Milosevic wants to cleanse the ethnic Albanians and will let his paramilitary gangs take care of that. His main aim in the time he has left is to deal with the KLA.

"He will drive them back to the mountains and then attempt to seal them in there. He knows he can't defeat them in such terrain, but he wants to push them out of the population centres, and in this he appears to be successful.

"The best estimates are that the KLA now has 40,000 men. The majority are no more than village militias, defending their own homes as they swore to do. They are lightly armed and no match for the Serb armour."

Certainly the bedraggled and demoralised forces reaching northern Albania confirmed reports of a defeat. Exhausted and bloodied in battle, two young men lay in Kukes hospital recovering from wounds, the result of a Serb ambush on one of their guerrilla routes for smuggling arms into Kosovo. Six others died when Serb special forces cut them down in a brief burst of gunfire.

Azen Syla, a founder member of the KLA, told *The Washington Post* recently that the KLA faced defeat unless it was supplied with anti-tank weapons and other equipment.

Many military analysts have been surprised at the lack of foresight Nato has shown in not being able to predict that the Serbs would step up their campaign against Kosovo's Albanians during the airstrikes. They were also dismayed that there were no plans for safe areas in the country, nor any real preparations by humanitarian agencies for a refugee problem.

Shadowy groups linked to killings

By Michael Evans, Defence Editor

HIGHLY secret groups from President Milosevic's state security organisation are helping to mastermind the killing of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, according to British defence intelligence officials.

One key figure named yesterday was Franki Simatovic, said to have a long history of "organising, arming and directing" Serb paramilitaries in the Bosnian war, and who was also now active in Kosovo. An intelligence official said: "He is a shadowy individual and we have no picture of him."

As well as looking after the paramilitaries, which now included the notorious Tigers, led by Arkan — the indicted war criminal whose real name is Zeljko Raznatovic — Simatovic also ran a "highly secretive and specialised group" called the JSO. This was a force of about 5,000 men recruited almost exclusively from army special forces.

The official said: "This group is well trained, well motivated and very dangerous. They also act as Milosevic's Praetorian Guard."

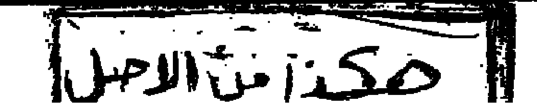
The Interior Ministry police had about 5,000 personnel in Kosovo, commanded by Major General Lukic. They had a heavily armed specialised group within them called the PJP.

"They are the police assault troops and are armed and equipped ... with mortars, heavy machineguns and armoured personnel carriers," the intelligence official said.

The PJP was the "backbone of Serbia's control in the province and has been responsible for the majority of the atrocities". It was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel General Stevanovic.

Another fearsome organisation was the SAJ, a counter-terrorist team.











It is unclear who actually captured the three US servicemen, Andrew Ramirez, left, Christopher Stone, centre, and Steven Gonsalves, right, in an ambush yesterday that has embarrassed Nato commanders

Villagers claim credit for ambush

Daniel McGrory in Staro Nagoricane hears conflicting boasts from local militias about who was responsible for the attack on a Nato patrol

STANDING in the shadows of a 13th-century church, the Serb farmer points proudly to the hilltop 200 yards away where he and his fellow villagers claim to have captured the three American soldiers. He was not alone yesterday in making such a boast.

In the ribbon of hamlets that runs along the largely unmarked border, scores of Serb men were taking credit for the ambush which has severely embarrassed Nato. Aleksandar Serasimovic, 36, showed the tyre tracks that the Humvee Jeep allegedly made as it veered into a field and past a 2ft-high stone that marks Serbian territory. He gestured to where he claims the reconnaissance team strayed some 200 yards onto enemy ground.

"The Nato troops asked for war. We gave it to them. We have guns, we are organised and this is just the start. There will be more ambushes," the former soldier said.

Village militias like his in Staro Nagoricane said they had been told to grab Nato forces if they could. "This was easy," he said. "The Americans left the rest of their convoy and we were waiting for them."

His boasts could not be verified, as 24 hours after the abduction Nato commanders at their base at Kumanovo, four miles south, were still investigating precisely where the Americans were seized.

They did insist that the convoy was "several kilometres" inside Macedonia when its last radio burst gave a warning that the Humvee was coming under small-arms fire.

Using a code, the team said that they were trying to pull back but were surrounded, and the radio went dead.

The patrol should have known the terrain as they have been scouring this mountainous and rugged area for months as part of a former UN peacekeeping operation. When the airstrikes began, the Americans were told to paint their white UN vehicles green and step up their border surveillance to protect Nato guns dug in a few miles south.

One senior Nato officer said last night: "The tracks they patrol weave back and forth on the border with Serbia and it's easy to get confused and stray. If they did, it was an accident."

Only one road leads into Staro Nagoricane, past a football field and a clutch of dilapidated apartments and then onto the exquisitely carved St George's church that sits in a small walled orchard.

Directly opposite, Dr Kratina Haueva stood outside the village clinic watching as another Humvee reconnaissance patrol passed. "They have been busier than ever since the three were captured. I suppose it's to show they're not scared."

Her assistant, Slagana Ilieva, sneered at the passing convoy and shouted insults. "They should not be here. They are killing civilians and should go home. I hope we capture more tonight."

It is impossible to trace the frontier accurately as there are no barriers running across the foothills of the Koziak mountains that straddle the two countries.

The Macedonian flag flies over the village police station that is tucked behind the church, but almost every one of the 250 families living here still prefer to think of themselves as part of Yugoslavia.

Inside the white-walled police station, the local commandant shows on the map where he thinks the Humvee was captured. He would not say if his men chased the abductors across the Serbian frontier, which is less than five minutes walk from the back garden of the police station.

The young officer simply shrugged his shoulders when asked if his force was investigating whether any of the villagers were responsible for the kidnap. "That is Nato's job, not mine."

The hatred towards Nato is all too obvious here. Graffiti are scrawled on most buildings. Children spit at the passing convoys. Old women scream bloodcurdling threats and farmers give the Serb salute to passing patrols.

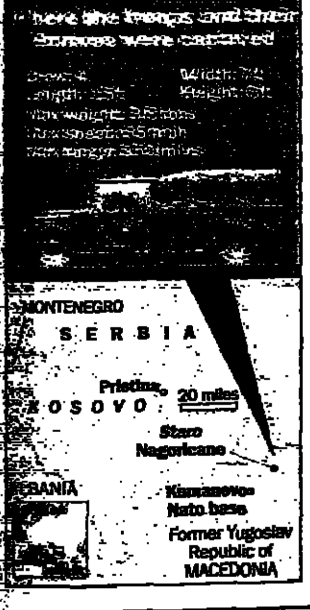
Zikic Kuzmanovski, 36, felt cheated he hadn't been part of the ambush. "If I had got to them, I would have strangled them with my two hands. Nato is worse than Hitler for us. The Americans must know they can never defeat us because we know these hills."

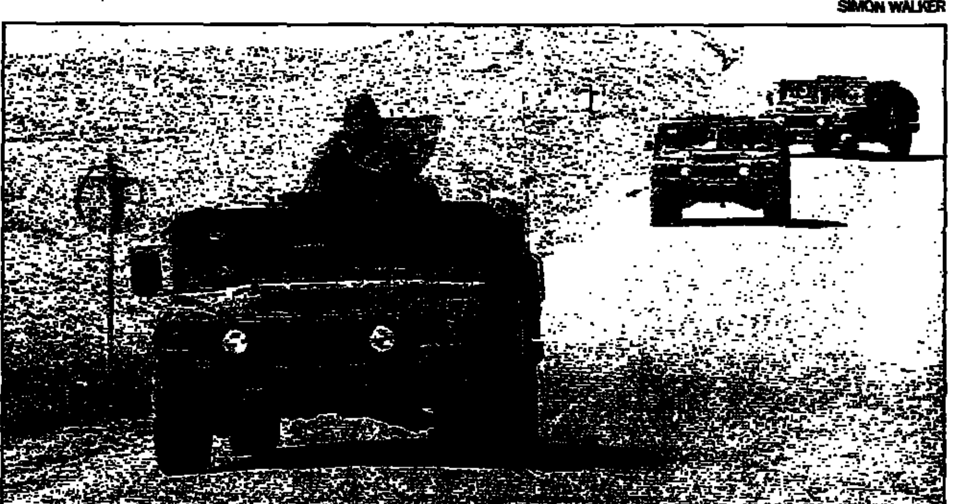
Thirteen miles further east, in the hilltop town of Lojone, other Serb supporters were giving graphic descriptions of how it was they who snatched the Nato team.

Drago Kumanovic, 43, patted the rifle slung over his shoulder as he declared: "Nato should not come back here unless they want to lose more soldiers." He pointed the barrel of the gun to the town of Mirotovac, two miles inside Yugoslavia, where he claims they handed the beaten Americans over to Serb troops.

The abduction has made Nato troops even more nervous about being dragged into this war and senior commanders were last night urgently reviewing security after this embarrassing lapse. Sources said it would "step up and beef up" its border patrols.

British special forces operating inside Kosovo and Serbia, spotting targets for Nato jets, were not used to search for the three Americans. Their mission is regarded as too vital and sensitive for them to have broken their cover.





SIMON WALKER

Patrols continue yesterday near the area where a Nato vehicle was ambushed

Hostages did not stray, say friends

Washington: Colleagues of the three American soldiers being held by the Serbs last night said that the men were experienced and highly trained and they could not believe that they would have blundered across the border into hostile territory (Damian Whitworth writes).

Captain John Clearwater, spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division, said the men had trained for six months for the peacekeeping mission.

Jim Stone, the father of one of three captured men, Staff Sgt Christopher J. Stone, said: "We're pretty much in shock. We didn't know anything was going on."

William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, said the men were considered "illegally detained", not prisoners of war. "We will do everything to secure their safe return."

David Leary, the White House National Security Council spokesman, said: "We're thankful that the servicemen are alive. Clearly the signs that they have been mistreated are very disturbing."

Cook posts his regrets on Web

By Michael Binyon

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday sent an Internet message to the people of Serbia — addressing them directly in Serbo-Croat — telling them how deeply he regretted that two old friends and allies against the Nazis were now on different sides. He promised that Nato would take "enormous care" to ensure that Serb civilians suffered as little as possible.

His message, on the Foreign Office website, spoke of British gratitude and respect for Serb courage in fighting the Nazis. Nato did not want this action and it was not intended to undermine Serbia, it said. Serbs nor Albanians can live in peace".

He recognised that this had caused considerable misery and stress for all Serbs. "I regret that. But I assure you that we shall continue to take enormous care to ensure that civilians suffer as little as possible."

Mr Cook said he had used the Internet because the state controlled the media in Serbia. The Foreign Office said that its website had attracted 10,000 hits from Serbia and Montenegro since the Nato action began.

LINKS

http://www.state.gov/www/regions/eur/map1.html — US State Department Website.

BALKANS WAR: YUGOSLAV DEFIANCE

Nato destroys Tito bridge in city of culture

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

FAMILIES living near the bridge over the Danube in the northern city of Novi Sad that was destroyed by cruise missiles early yesterday morning spoke of their terror as they awoke to the sound of thunder and mayhem.

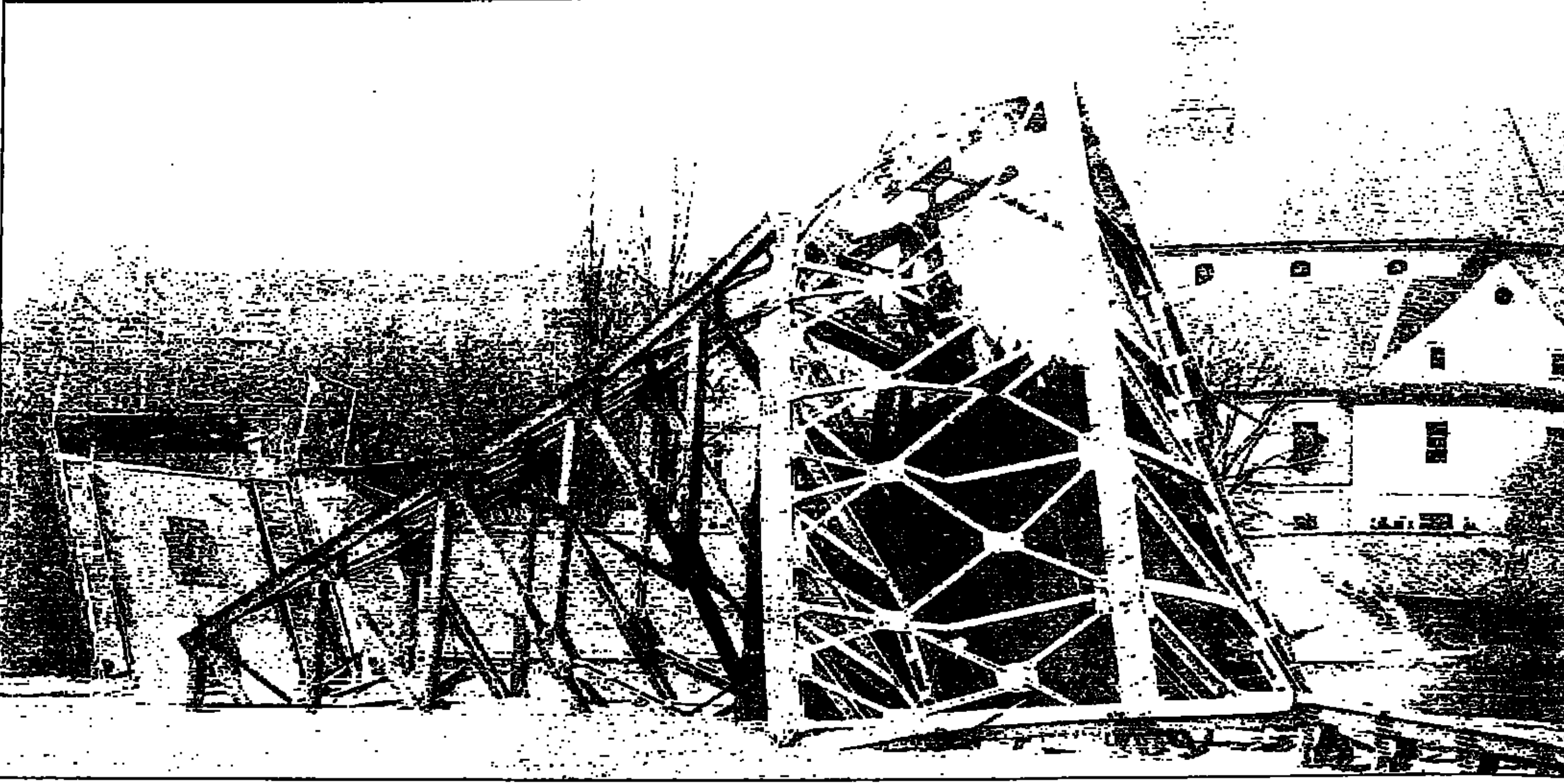
Stana Krasavac, who lives in an old town house just 600ft from the blast, described how she thought an earthquake had hit them. "The furniture was rattling, the doors were thrown open and every window in the house was broken."

It was an especially rude awakening for Mrs Krasavac, since yesterday was her birthday. Ironically, when she was born in 1941, German air raids against Novi Sad began just five days later, and she confessed she felt a shared destiny with the famous bridge, which is named after Tito since his partisans repaired it towards the end of the war. Blowing up the most graceful bridge in one of Serbia's most moderate towns has done little to win Nato any new friends.

Novi Sad is the capital of the northern Vojvodina region, where the Serbs actually constitute under half of the population. It is famous for its theatre and arts, and until yesterday had a town hall where President Milosevic's Socialists and the far-right radicals were on the wane.

"For the first time in my life, I am convinced that stupidity prevails," said Mrs Krasavac's daughter, Biljana, an economist. "When something like this happens to your family, then you begin to feel really angry." If democracy is ever to flourish in Serbia, as Nato avows it must, then jettisoning families like the Krasavacs is not a great start. Biljana described how her mother had to pull her 95-year-old grandmother, Olga, from her wheelchair between the first and second cruise missile blasts, and drag her into a corridor with no windows.

"We knew something was wrong when our Scottish terrier, Vanja, started running in circles and going crazy," she said, thanking the 18in thick walls of the 1920s house for probably sparing the family from injury.



The bridge over the Danube at Novi Sad destroyed by Nato's cruise missiles. Locals at first thought the town had been struck by an earthquake

As Belgraders anxiously looked towards their many crossings of the Sava and the vital Pancevo bridge — Serbia's largest — spanning the Danube, President Milosevic made his boldest move towards ending the airstrikes, bringing ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova to his White Palace residence in Belgrade. State television showed the two men shaking hands after their noon meeting, and Mr Milosevic's office issued a statement describing how both leaders were "committed to working out a political solution". Vuk Draskovic, federal Deputy Prime Minister, said the encounter was good news. "We're continuing to look for a political dialogue, but bombing and all aggression must first stop," he said. Local political commentators said Mr Milosevic and Mr Rugova were in the same position, with both vulnerable to being ousted or even assassinated if they make concessions unacceptable to their electorates. Mr Rugova is supposed to command the support of 98 per cent of ethnic Albanians, but his standing has declined as the Kosovo Liberation Army mushroomed into a people's movement.

Veteran of rock inspires songs against bombs

BY TOM WALKER

THE inspiration behind Belgrade's daily songs-against-bombs protest is a veteran of the Yugoslav rock scene, Dejan Sukic.

A lifetime resident of the city, Mr Sukic, 39, said yesterday that he felt so betrayed by America, the country whose music he once loved, that he never wants to go there again. "I think they are right behind the Kosovo Liberation Army," he said, horrified by Nato's destruction of the bridge over the Danube in Novi Sad, one of his favourite towns. "I dread to think what they will do next."

Come what may, Mr Sukic vows the protests will continue until the bombs stop, and then there will be "the biggest celebration of all. The trouble is, I don't think they will stop. I don't see an end to it".

Much of the music thudding out during the protest was written during the collapse of Yugoslavia, and was often inspired by events elsewhere. Many tunes date from the Eighties, when Yugoslavia was the Eastern bloc country to be envied. The irony is that many of the songs now have an additional poignancy as the missiles and bombs rain down and the air raid sirens wail.

I want to sing some more, because life comes only once, is Mr Sukic's best known number, and has become a lunchtime favourite for the tens of thousands of Belgraders who now flock to Republic Square armed with often comic banners mocking the West and its leaders.

Another crowd favourite, by Boro Djordjevic and Fish Soup, is entitled *Aeroplane, I want to break your wings*. It was written long before the era of the Stealth bomber: Mr Djordjevic wanted to get the pilot of the aircraft that was taking his girlfriend away.

"The whole thing is getting out of conrol, and I honestly don't think the people in the West know what they are doing," said Mr Sukic. "For us, it's put the new world order in a totally different perspective. It seems that America doesn't want individualism in the world any more — it's creating societies seduced by luxury into ignorance. And on the other side of that they start supporting totalitarian causes like the KLA, whose politics are based on Stalinism.

"An American pilot has no idea of what he's doing to us," Mr Sukic said. "If they lived here, they'd see it pretty differently."

Safety zone plan for limited invasion

Charles Bremner in Brussels and **Michael Evans**, Defence Editor, on Nato's options for going in

With pressure growing for action to halt Serbian massacres, Nato planners are reviewing options for a limited ground operation in Kosovo to secure a safe zone for civilians. General Wesley Clark, the Nato Supreme Commander in Europe, confirmed that discussions were under way on a "sanctuary" plan — a scheme that would spare the allies the burden of a full-scale ground war. But he said: "I have heard these discussions. I will not discuss any details or a time line, or what such a mission might be."

His remarks reinforced the view that a limited zone operation could prove feasible and far faster than the massive deployment of ground forces that would be required for an all-out invasion.

The prospect of Nato troops fighting their way into landlocked Kosovo appeareds to be looming closer as the Yugoslav armed forces continued their scorched-earth campaign. Western governments continue to treat an all-out ground war as a virtual taboo, given the military conclusion that it would take at least 200,000 troops, plus hundreds of aircraft and tanks, to confront Yugoslav forces in extremely hostile terrain.

A safe areas policy, if it involved forced entry into Kosovo, would still require a large number of troops, military sources emphasised yesterday.

If the Nato plan were to seize a small piece of territory in Kosovo and guard its perimeter with troops, tanks and artillery, modern Western military doctrine would make it imperative for Nato countries to commit at least 100,000 troops for the task — not because they would necessarily need that number for the initial operation, but to sustain it for a long period.

This is why an invasion force to take the Yugoslav Army on in a high-intensity war has been effectively dismissed as unrealistic, because of the numbers of troops that would be needed for a long campaign.

Nato unquestionably has the overwhelming technological advantage over the Yugoslav Army, and with air superiority — or, ideally, air supremacy — Nato would defeat President Milosevic's forces.

However, a war in Yugoslavia would not just be about numbers and technology. Other factors, all in the Yugoslav Army's favour, would be terrain and weather and, above all, national motivation. The pilots in the Battle of Britain defeated the mighty armada of German bombers because each flyer was fighting for the survival of his country.

When Nato planners study the military intervention option, they take into account all these factors. The required troop numbers in an ideal battle strategy for Kosovo would have to be based on about a ten-to-one advantage for the invader, not the traditional three-to-one for a war fought on tank-friendly flat terrain.

However, Nato's huge technological advantage would bring those numbers down. In the Gulf War, the US-led coalition never achieved anywhere near the three-to-one ratio, because the Iraqis had a million men at arms.

But in the desert the stand-off technology of the American bombers and advanced long-range artillery reduced the Iraqi advantage in numbers to such an extent that the odds changed dramatically.

Kosovo, however, would be different, and as one military source said it would depend on the length of the campaign.

Britain's military strategy is predicated on having the capability to sustain two armoured brigades in two separate operations at any one time — one engaged in a high-intensity conflict lasting no more than six months, and the other involved in a permanent peace enforcement mission, with units rotating, such as it already has in Bosnia. Most of the other Nato countries could not match this.

Even the United States works on the basis that no more than 11 per cent of its armed forces should be operational at a time. Despite all these reasons for rejecting ground troop intervention, Nato is clearly considering a middle option — the safety zones idea.

> 'A force to take the Yugoslav Army on has been effectively dismissed as unrealistic'

But if this is to be imposed against the wishes of the Belgrade leadership, a Nato force would have to be considerably larger and more heavily armoured than the proposed 28,000-strong peace implementation force that would have been sent into Kosovo had Belgrade signed the Rambouillet accord.

For example, Britain's leading battle group in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia — about 4,800 troops — has only 14 Challenger tanks. A fully equipped British armoured brigade of about 8,000 troops, preparing for an opposed intervention, would need nearly 120 Challengers. This indicates the scale of the military expansion that would be required, even for a safe areas strategy.

If Belgrade made it clear that such a strategy was out of the question, Nato could not comtemplate going in without the heaviest armour. If the plan was to grab limited territory, it is possible that some 30,000 to 40,000 troops, protected from the air, could move into southern Kosovo from Macedonia and Albania.

But the single road from Macedonia into Kosovo passes through deep gorges and tunnels in 6,000ft mountains. This would leave vehicles and men highly vulnerable to small Serbian units. Similar obstacles apply on the Albanian frontier.

Airborne operations would also be severely hampered in a mountainous region where Tito's guerrillas played havoc with German forces during the Second World War.

HOW NATO COULD SET UP A SAFE HAVEN

WHERE THE EXTRA TROOPS WILL COME FROM

GERMANY

Skopje

Thessaloniki

THE ROUTE IN

SERBIA

MONTENEGRO

Podgorica

Kosovo

ALBANIA

Former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA

THE AIR COVER

THE THREAT FROM THE HILLS

Mountains providing perfect cover for Yugoslav forces, using mobile missiles and artillery, targeting advancing Nato troops

FORCES NEEDED

WHAT THEY ARE UP AGAINST

Yugoslav Armed Forces:
Total active: 114,200
Reserves: 400,000
ARMY:
Troops: 90,000
Tanks: 1,270
Artillery: 1,815
AIR FORCE:
Combat aircraft: 226
Combat helicopters: 52

KEY NATO WEAPON

AS90 155MM SELF-PROPELLED GUN

Ex-envoy says it is time for 'havens'

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A FORMER American Ambassador to Croatia has called on Nato to set up safe areas in Kosovo to protect the ethnic Albanians from Serb attacks.

Peter Galbraith said Nato was failing in its primary humanitarian and political mission, which was to protect the people of Kosovo. Nato had, therefore, to contemplate further action: the use of ground troops. But, he told BBC *Newsnight*, by the time such a force was assembled, "ethnic cleansing" might have been completed and the people of Kosovo gone.

He proposed an interim measure — the creation of havens in Kosovo for the refugees as a prelude to full-scale military action to expel President Milosevic's troops. Meanwhile, he said, Nato should begin to look as though it was going to use ground troops, as this would change Mr Milosevic's calculations.

Mr Galbraith, now a lecturer at the National War College in Washington, insisted that, despite President Clinton's promise not to use ground troops, "this is war — things change".

One consequence would have to be a Western change of attitude towards Kosovan independence.

"If ground troops went in to Kosovo, then it would be absurd for this province to remain in Serbia or Yugoslavia contrary to the will of the vast majority of its citizens . . . the outcome has to be an independent state."

British lorries used to smuggle refugees

Channel port drivers profit from trade in human cargo from Kosovo, reports Adam Sage in Calais

BRITISH lorry drivers are being used by gangs to smuggle Kosovan refugees across the Channel every night.

Many drivers are the unwitting victims of an operation that involves slipping asylum-seekers into the backs of their lorries at Channel ports and European service stations. But some charge money — up to £1,500 — to take groups of refugees to Britain.

A gunfight between rival groups of traffickers left one Kosovan dead and three injured in Calais earlier this week. The shots were fired after two groups of traffickers began disputing a payment received from a refugee who had been put on a lorry bound for Britain, a French investigator said last night.

Olivier Brachet, director of the French Council for Refugees and the Right to Asylum, said: "We know there is a huge business in getting people across Europe and that lorries are the main means of transport. A lot of drivers from all countries are on the take."

A weekly total of between 250 and 500 Kosovans are attempting to reach Britain from the ferry port of Calais. Others use the Channel Tunnel or other ports. But these numbers are likely to escalate as the impact of the war spreads across Europe.

A French police officer, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "We have the Albanian mafia here in Calais. These gangs know which lorry drivers will take the Kosovans. They charge whatever the refugees have ... and the driver gets a cut of that. Many of the drivers involved are British. The traffickers know that Britons are less likely to be stopped at Dover."

On Wednesday in Calais there was clear evidence of the refugee trade, with about 40 Kosovans waiting to slip across the Channel. As night fell, three of them huddled in a shadowy corner of the vast lorry park beside the port. In hesitant English, they told of their desperation to get out of France — which they see as pro-Serb — to reach Britain, "a good country, on our side".

They had left Prizren, south of Pristina, as Nato bombing began and travelled to Vlore in western Albania. There they paid a middleman a total of £5,200 to get them across the Adriatic and find them a European lorry driver to transport them to Calais. "We will be in Britain tomorrow," said one of the three, hinting that he had done a deal with a driver at the port.

French police had spotted the trio, but did not try to stop them. "Unless we see them getting into the lorry we can do nothing," said an officer. "The powers that be do not want us to clamp down."

A man in a black leather coat walked away as soon as the police car pulled up. "We know he's one of the traffickers," said the officer.

Some of the British drivers waiting to cross the Channel said they knew of colleagues involved in the trade. Bob Hodges, 33, from Manchester, said: "I was offered £1,300 to take a load of Kosovans across last month. I was at a service station in Belgium when a man in a white BMW drove up and said I could have the money in cash. I refused."

Barry Lawton, 51, from Oldham, said he had been the victim of a plot involving Italian police. An officer flagged him down outside Milan. "When I got to Dover, I was stopped by the customs. There were 36 Kosovans in the back."

☐ No arrests: Police in England and Wales have been told not to arrest Kosovan refugees illegally smuggled in by lorries (Richard Ford and Stephen Farrell write). The aim is to give people claiming to be Kosovo Albanians the "benefit of the doubt" and stop them filling police cells. Any illegal immigrant claiming to be from Kosovo should go to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in Croydon, South London.

PLEAS FOR REFUGEE AID

THE actress Juliet Stevenson and the presenter Jill Dando will make television appeals on behalf of the Kosovo refugees next week, it was announced yesterday (Adrian Lee writes).

The appeals will be broadcast on BBC 1, BBC 2, ITV and BSkyB on Tuesday evening. Commercial and BBC radio stations will make appeals on Wednesday, the Disasters Emergency Committee, said.

Previous joint appeals, on behalf of 15 leading charities, have raised up to £30 million.



Kosovan activists in London yesterday, including Syle Krasniqi, left, who says that he plans to join the KLA

London provides uneasy haven for young victims of conflict

Joanna Bale, Elizabeth Judge and Stephen Farrell on exiles in UK

MILAH SEJDIU celebrated his 16th birthday alone in the back of a lorry while fleeing Kosovo for Britain. His parents spent all their savings to pay for their eldest son's escape, and had no choice but to stay behind with the rest of their children.

The baby-faced Kosovan, who is living in a bedsit in east London, has not heard from his family for two months. Terrified that they are among the thousands who have been murdered by the Serbs, he spends his days scouring the newspapers for confirmation they are alive.

"It was too dangerous for me to stay," he said, his expression etched with anxiety. "The Serb police would regularly beat me and my friends, demanding our ID papers. Our schools were closed, our teachers imprisoned. My parents spent all their money sending me here to safety, but now I am very worried that they might be dead."

Milah is just one of hundreds of Kosovan children whose parents sent them to Britain alone as the crisis escalated over the past few months. Most of them are teenage boys, although there are increasing numbers of girls and some children as young as eight.

Those under 16 are sent to foster families by local authorities, while those old enough to look after themselves are condemned to the isolation of bedsits. All are sent to schools where they struggle to keep up with lessons.

Most of them are given vital additional support, including English lessons, by Albanian Youth Action, a new charity set up to deal with the crisis.

The project manager, Caroline Ffrench Blake, said: "They are all very vulnerable and desperately need support. We give advice and provide social activities for them so that they can get together and not feel so isolated, but our resources are very limited."

At the charity's headquarters near The Oval in South London yesterday, Mon Kurtti, 14, told of his mixed feelings at being in Britain: "I am obviously pleased to be safe, but I won't be happy until my family are safe too. I spoke to them a week ago, but have heard nothing since."

Others have similar stories to tell. Resul Sadriu, 16, has not heard from his family for three months after travelling to Britain alone by lorry.

All the boys are dominated by fears for their families, but also by their anger at what the Serbs have done.

Arde Kelmendi, 15, is the son of a journalist in Pristina who lost his job after his newspaper was banned. His father paid for him to be taken by taxi across Europe on a three-day trip to Britain with two other boys. He said: "Nato should have attacked before and sent in ground troops. We just want to return to our homes and live in peace."

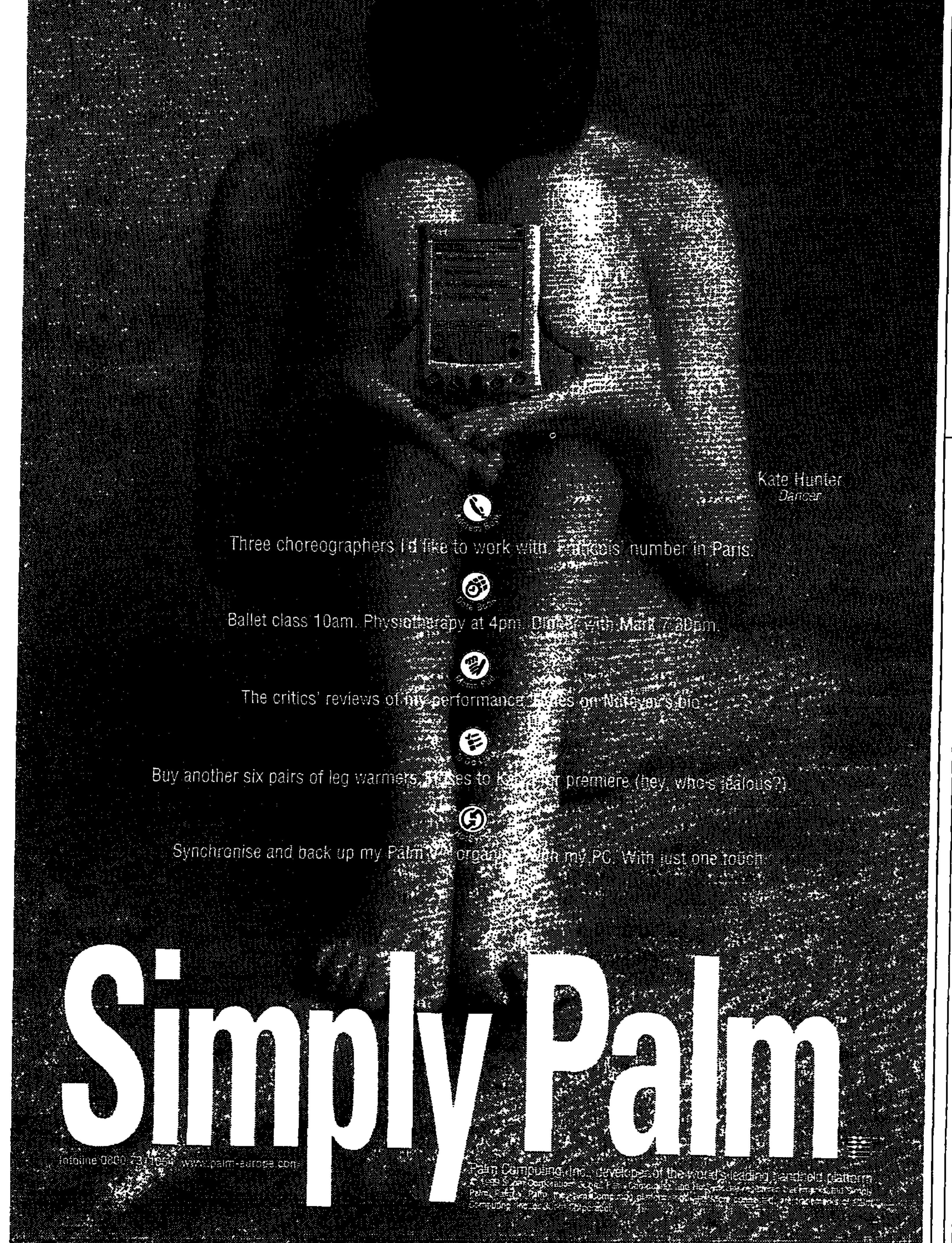
The boys are slowly being integrated into an estimated 30,000-strong Kosovan community in north and north-west London, which includes pockets of political activists.

A group of activists meet in a former car-wash in Golders Green. Men in their thirties sit huddled in groups talking in low voices. The walls of the dingy meeting place are decorated with pictures of KLA leaders and a radio broadcasts in their native language.

One of the activists, Syle Krasniqi, 26, said: "I will go as soon as I get the chance. If I get word within the hour, I will go and fight with the KLA."



Mon Kurtti, centre, is in the UK but fears for his family





Refugees herded down track of despair



Kosovans are being driven from a hostile land to an unwelcoming one, writes Daniel McGrory in Blace

THEY were forced at gunpoint to walk two by two for miles yesterday along the railway track. About 10,000 refugees picked their way along the narrow rails as the Serbs speeded up their evacuation of Pristina by herding everyone they could find on to trains that ended their journey in a minefield.

Masked Serb gunmen told those families on board they had five minutes to start walking or the carriages would be shunted into a siding and they would be shot.

A blind man tapped his stick on the edge of the rails, clinging to his daughter's arm. She carried her own child on her back. Nobody dared step off the track to help her.

An aid worker turned away, appalled at the sight of this miserable trail that seemed to have no end as it trudged towards the border crossing at Blace yesterday. "We thought such things ended with Hitler's Germany and this is Europe on the verge of the millennium," he said.

Aid organisations cannot cope with the increasing numbers pouring into Macedonia and there were moves last night to enlist the help of the 10,800 Nato troops here to prevent a humanitarian disaster.

After their precarious walk, the railway refugees have to scramble down a steep bank into a field where many of them slept last night without shelter or sanitation.

Arjeta Voglici, 22, staggered among the exhausted bodies asking if anyone had milk she could give her four-month-old daughter who was too weak with hunger to cry.

Three local Red Cross officials stood helpless on the edge of the field, harangued by refugees who told them it had been 24 hours since they were given anything to eat or drink.

Aid organisations say there is convincing evidence that the Serbs have embarked on an operation to evict all ethnic Albanians from the regional capital of Kosovo.

Lucas Mjaku, 52, a teacher, described how he, his wife and three daughters had been told to leave their home two nights ago and march to Pristina's main railway station. They could barely force their way on to the concourse because of the thousands in front of them.

"We did not know where we were going. We were just shunted into carriages. There was hardly room to breathe. When the train stopped the Serbs showed us the mines they had laid and told us not to leave the tracks until we were out of their country."

If the Serbs are ensuring it is impossible for the refugees to stay, then neighbouring governments like Macedonia's appear to be making it difficult for them to escape. Police are taking so long to let vehicles cross that by last night there was reported to be a 12-mile queue of cars. Many refugees simply abandoned their cars and walked. When they do get across, refugees are made to queue for hours to register at two makeshift tents on a scrap of wasteland and then pushed onto overcrowded buses.

International monitors said 10,000 refugees who had arrived in Albania earlier this week were simply put on buses and tipped over into Macedonia, which refused to take them. They remain in no-man's-land.

The authorities in Skopje said they would take only 20,000 refugees. By last night more than 40,000 had already crossed into Macedonia. Another 30,000 are said to be on the road behind them.

Albanians are indignant that the authorities in Skopje have closed only schools used by their children for use as temporary shelters. One local Albanian leader said: "Everyone in Macedonia must help, not just our community. Where is the UN, the Red Cross and the rest?"

Aid organisations which have been caught unprepared were last night asking Nato to use one of its pilotless drone spy planes to pick out where the refugees are heading so they can move tents and food supplies.

Six trains arrived in a matter of hours at Blace yesterday and the authorities there have been told to expect many more today. The Macedonian authorities have not explained why the first train was turned back at the rail border. Only two Macedonian families were allowed off.

At the trackside in Volkovo, local villagers in this stronghold of Serb nationalism jeered at the refugees. One man shouted: "I will burn them all on that train. They are terrorists and we don't want them in Macedonia."

As more refugees arrive, the fear is that local tensions between rival communities could ignite violence on this side of the border.

A senior monitor watching yesterday's arrivals said: "This is what Milosevic wants — to destabilise the whole area. That could start here if we're not careful."

PETER DEJONG / AP



A man helps his mother as thousands of refugees walk along the track from Kosovo to the border-crossing at Blace in Macedonia yesterday

Middle classes join the exodus

BY SAM KILEY IN MANICE ON THE ALBANIA-KOSOVO BORDER

THEIR expensive leather jackets soaked with rain, their pockets emptied, all evidence of their identities taken and burnt, Pristina's middle classes joined ordinary peasants as penniless European refugees yesterday.

A damburst of people surged into Albania after the Albanian authorities stopped trying to register every refugee entering the country and relieved the mounting pressure caused by murder and robbery at the hands of Serbs preying on a 60-mile backlog of misery.

"I can't believe I am here," said a computer programmer, who had his own company in Pristina. "This is something you see on the TV from Africa. This isn't something I thought that could ever happen to people like me.

"Stupid, really, but I have only just realised I am a real refugee as I crossed into Albania."

At 24, he had faced a successful future. He owned a VW Golf and a small business, and enjoyed the same sort of popular music as any other similar European. "I am ashamed to give my name. But I want you to tell my story. That way perhaps people in the rest of Europe can understand what it is like to be a normal citizen one day, and a refugee the next."

"John", who still has a family hiding in Pristina, was ordered to board a bus at a moment's notice. "The police came to my door and said, 'pack and leave'. It was as simple as that. Get out, or we'll kill you. They have been clearing everywhere. They have done it suburb-by-suburb, very carefully. So far, so far as I know, with very little killing."

The result is the line of vehicles and refugees (those bussed out are dumped five miles short of the border and forced to walk.)

"I am so ashamed of myself . . . I somehow perhaps thought I was above anyone else, that it could not happen to me. Now I am alone, penniless," John said.

Clinton rejected warnings of fiasco

Wrong-footed President is forced on to the defensive, writes Ben Macintyre in Washington



SHARON FARMER, WHITE HOUSE / AP

President Clinton with his national security team: Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State, General Hugh Shelton, Joint Chiefs Chairman, and George Tenet, CIA Director, right

PRESIDENT CLINTON was yesterday accused of going to war despite the repeated warnings of senior US intelligence and military advisers, who told him that bombing Serbia could lead to a humanitarian disaster and a military fiasco.

As a dismayed America watched its captured soldiers being paraded on Serb television and the Kosovo conflict threatened to spiral into the worst foreign policy crisis of his presidency, Mr Clinton also found himself on the defensive on another, more familiar front, insisting that the impeachment trial stemming from his relationship with the former White House trainee Monica Lewinsky was "not a badge of shame".

For weeks before the Nato bombardment George Tenet, the CIA Director, was predicting that an air campaign might only exacerbate Serb brutality in Kosovo. At the same time, according to *The Washington Post*, several senior military advisers told the President that air power alone would never halt the Serb offensive, a warning backed up by military intelligence.

Mr Clinton and his senior aides pressed ahead, wedded to a decision taken some six months ago that ground troops should not be deployed in Kosovo and would not need to be. With recrimination rising and morale dropping at the White House, in the space of a few days Mr Clinton's tone has changed from bullish exhortation to something close to pleading.

"It takes a while to get up and going," he said in television interview on Wednesday night. "I would urge all the American people, indeed the people in all the Nato nations, to stay with your leaders, to give us a chance." Senior administration spokesmen are becoming increasingly snappy and defensive, and earlier this week Mr Clinton felt it necessary to gather his top foreign policy officials for some spine-stiffening talk.

"Guys, let's not lose sight of why we did this. Let's not forget who's responsible," he reportedly told his advisers.

White House officials frankly admit that the scale and ferocity of the Serb ethnic cleansing campaign has wrong-footed policymakers, even though intelligence sources and military analysts said that President Milosevic was preparing an onslaught throughout the peace negotiations at Rambouillet, and that airstrikes might only trigger a wave of further bloodshed.

One intelligence report, cited by *The New York Times* and completed just before airstrikes started, concluded that the Serbs planned to "ethnically cleanse" Kosovo of 1.8 million Albanians within a week.

President Clinton, already haggard from a heavy cold and allergies, is said to be losing sleep over the deteriorating situation in Kosovo and devoting all his energy to the problem. Yet he has also managed to give the impression that his mind is still not fully on the job.

Immediately after his meeting with senior advisers on Monday, Mr Clinton knocked off work for a sunny round of golf in Virginia, in a studied display of nonchalance entirely at odds with what he had just told key officials. The move also recalled former President Bush's much-criticised jaunt on a boat off Maine while sending troops to the Gulf War.

America was once more reminded of Mr Clinton's tendency to let his mind wander from affairs of state during an interview with CBS on Wednesday night, when he dismissed his impeachment trial as a politically motivated plot. He declared he was "honoured" that the impeachment had given him the chance to defend the US Constitution. "I do not regard this impeachment vote as some great badge of shame. I do not," he said.

The sight of bruised and beaten American servicemen in Serb captivity could undermine the already lukewarm support for military action in Kosovo, while making any possible move to send in ground troops yet more remote. Mr Clinton has repeated that he still has no intention of using combat forces, without entirely ruling out the option. Pentagon planners are belatedly exploring what few options there may be for using ground forces, including possible deployment of the crack 82nd Airborne Division to open a corridor or safety zone for fleeing refugees.

Mr Clinton knows well that political and public opposition to the use of ground forces would be fierce, and while publicly urging patience he is pressing Nato to step up the pace of airstrikes.

The Clinton Administration is tying itself in knots to avoid using the word "capture", when referring to the three soldiers now in Serb hands, referring instead to their "abduction" or even "kidnapping". Mr Clinton entered the fray in Kosovo with a commitment that US foot soldiers would not be drawn in, but already he has found himself a captive of his policy's contradictions.

US memories of Vietnam chip away at morale

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S vast generation of baby-boomers has suffered jitters about war ever since Vietnam, the searing experience of their youth.

Vietnam taught them to mistrust their Government's war aims and to be especially sceptical of "mission creep", the escalation of bombing sorties and troop levels. At the height of the Vietnam War, 450 body bags bearing the remains of American soldiers were flown home in one week.

As a result, unease is widespread and reaction to an episode like yesterday's hostage-taking of three US soldiers or the loss of a F117 fighter-bomber can be out of proportion. Risk avoidance has become a national obsession.

A classic example was President Clinton's first military fiasco in Somalia six years ago, when army rangers were ambushed. Eighteen American soldiers were killed and some of their bodies were mutilated. The uproar at home led to bipartisan congressional calls for a US withdrawal. Mr Clinton complied.

It does not help that Mr Clinton worked hard to evade the Vietnam draft. His lack of military service and the disdain he expressed then for the armed forces continue to undermine confidence in his authority now that he is Commander-in-Chief.

It was a remarkable triumph for George Bush and Colin Powell to overcome American doubts sufficiently to build the international coalition that tackled Iraq in the Gulf War. But Mr Bush had credibility as a former navy pilot who had been shot down by the Japanese. And there was an unambiguous mission to defeat President Saddam Hussein. The present mission in Kosovo is less clear-cut.

Worse, perhaps, American forces have shrunk in size and are short of spare parts and recruits at all levels. Some retired officers point to a decline in warrior mentality among the forces. They blame the increase of women in uniform, although many perform to the highest standards.

Concerns are voiced, however, that the army sometimes seems determined to turn itself into one big, happy, diverse family. Last month a meeting of sergeants-major was addressed by Lieutenant-General Claudia Kennedy, army deputy chief of staff for intelligence. She lectured them on the army's new politeness policy, dubbed "COO". This stands for Consideration of Others and she made clear that those who did not join in COO sessions were "resistant and insensitive to others". Such behaviour would not be tolerated, she said.

Many in the audience, some with four combat tours behind them, were squirming and rolling their eyes.

Blair's heavy burden of war and peace

The Prime Minister has spent a gruelling fortnight juggling Kosovo and Ulster. **Philip Webster** reports

Tony Blair reached the sanctuary of Chequers last night after the most gruelling fortnight any British prime minister has endured in decades. At stake, war and peace in Ulster and the Balkans.

Although aides try to maintain the image of the unflagging man of steel, he is exhausted and shows it. It would be slightly worrying if he were not.

So immersed was Blair in the talks at Hillsborough Castle on Wednesday that he gave up his bed — he was allocated the Queen's Bedroom — to a senior Unionist and worked through the night, occasionally dozing, in a part of the building known as Lady Grey's sitting room.

Another night without sleep. But it was the sort of discomfort to which he has become accustomed in recent days. The marathon talks did not produce the breakthrough hoped for, but the process survives.

Although Northern Ireland dominated Blair's time this week, his thoughts were frequently focused elsewhere. Two weekends ago, along with President Clinton and other Nato leaders, Blair reluctantly concluded that for the second time in his brief premiership he would have to order British troops into action.

Asking young men to risk their lives for their country is the heaviest of all responsibilities, and in Blair's case, probably one to which he gave little thought as he eyed first the prize of the Labour leadership, and then the Prime Ministership. There is nothing military in his background. His father Leo was a barrister and law lecturer. The harmlessly rebellious young Blair was required during his first two years at Fettes College to be in the combined cadet force.

But his first decision involving a military matter saw him spurn the world of square-bashing and gun-stripping. Given the choice of carrying on in the CCF or joining an "outside service" scheme, he opted to help the needy.

Last December's engagement with Saddam Hussein was a skirmish compared with the lengthy and dangerous campaign on which Nato has now embarked in Belgrade. The burden of prosecuting a war would be weighty enough on its own. But while keeping himself briefed on the campaign in the Balkans, Blair has spent most of his waking hours this week desperately trying to stop the Ulster peace process collapsing, and most of last negotiating a deal on the future financing of the European Union.

A week ago yesterday Blair, after working through the night with his fellow leaders, emerged bleary-eyed at a press conference in Berlin to announce that he had secured Britain's £2 billion rebate.

Then he was into his aircraft heading for Llandudno to speak to the Welsh Labour conference and launch the campaign for the Welsh elections. Some advisers told him not to do it because he had too much on his plate. He insisted. Both he and Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, slept throughout the one-hour car journey from the airport to the conference centre.

The speech itself was fairly flat. But when it came to the passage on the war, Blair roused himself and his audience. By the afternoon, he was in a BBC studio preparing and recording his nationwide address on the Kosovo crisis.

He managed some sleep at the weekend but this past week the pace has been just as relentless. He arrived in Belfast on Monday night. The next morning he breakfasted with the Orange Order, spent 90 minutes at a school answering questions, met all the minor parties involved in the peace process, saw the husband of the murdered lawyer Rosemary Nelson, met the Garvaghy Road residents' association before getting down to hours of negotiations, carrying on past midnight, with the main players. A special nerve centre to keep Blair in touch with the military action and other world leaders was set up in Hillsborough Castle. Soon he was back into his plane heading for London to report to MPs on the latest from both fronts. Question Time negotiated, he held brief meetings and three hours later he was back on the Tarmac, ready to return to Belfast.

Blair is good at putting subjects into compartments. As soon as he got up in Belfast on Wednesday, he had a 20 minute meeting about Kosovo with Campbell and John Sawers, his foreign affairs private secretary. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, briefed them. Blair then called a meeting on Northern Ireland, with Mo Mowlam joining the group. The Prime Minister travels light — on the trips back and forth to Ulster were himself, Sawers, Campbell, two secretaries and two duty clerks. "Everyone is focused. There is no need for preambles," an insider said.

> 'Once he has been convinced that the course is right, the attitude is 'OK, we do it''

Aides are nervous about suggestions that Blair is risking burn-out, pointing out that he often works just as hard on other, less public, matters. And the hours, although long, do not compare with the general election when 20-hour days were the norm for weeks.

It is far too soon to judge Blair as a war leader. Only if and when British casualties start to happen will the nation see how he bears up to the strain. But the responsibility is weighing heavily on him.

> 'Aides are nervous about suggestions that Blair is risking burn-out'

In Berlin he often looked preoccupied. His voice occasionally faltered as he first announced that Alliance planes were again flying in anger. He has insisted on personal briefings on the targets in Nato's sights, seeking reassurance over the risks to civilian casualties.

The Prime Minister — often accused of bypassing his ministerial colleagues — has kept them fully involved in all the discussions leading up to the decision to launch air strikes. A senior Cabinet Minister says that, after Northern Ireland, Kosovo has been the subject most discussed at full Cabinet in the last three months.

The attitude to war in the Cabinet has been one of uncomfortable acceptance of its inevitability, the Minister says. "There is unease that we have been forced to this but no dissent."

Blair is relaxed when dealing with the military and, according to senior defence sources, they are happy with him. One said: "Once he has been convinced that the course is right, the attitude is 'OK, we do it'."

War leaders are made by their ability to win public confidence and to retain it when doubts begin to stir. Some prime ministers have risen to the occasion to become national leaders — Lloyd George, Churchill and Baroness Thatcher. Others have faltered — Asquith, Neville Chamberlain in 1939-40 and Eden during the Suez crisis. Then as now the key relationship is between the Prime Minister and the Chief of Defence Staff.

In these tension-filled days, Blair is leaning heavily on General Sir Charles Guthrie. The mutual respect is said by insiders to be considerable — as it was between Thatcher and Lord Lewin at the time of the Falklands. A senior minister admits that Blair is talking more to Sir Charles than any of the Cabinet.

He became deeply impressed with Sir Charles with his clearcut presentation of the options during the strategic defence review and when they together worked on plans for military action against Iraq three times last year: it happened on only the third occasion. When he rushed in from Ulster on Wednesday, his first meeting was with Sir Charles.

According to his close advisers, Blair has had no difficulty in convincing himself that war against President Milosevic is in Britain's national interest. He believes the public backs the war because of the scenes of brutality against the fleeing ethnic Albanians, the horrors of ethnic cleaning and an innate British sense, bred through the last war, that tyrants must be confronted. All of those sentiments are driving him. But the wider fear of a Balkan war eventually convulsing the Continent and the potential damage to Nato's credibility also worries him.

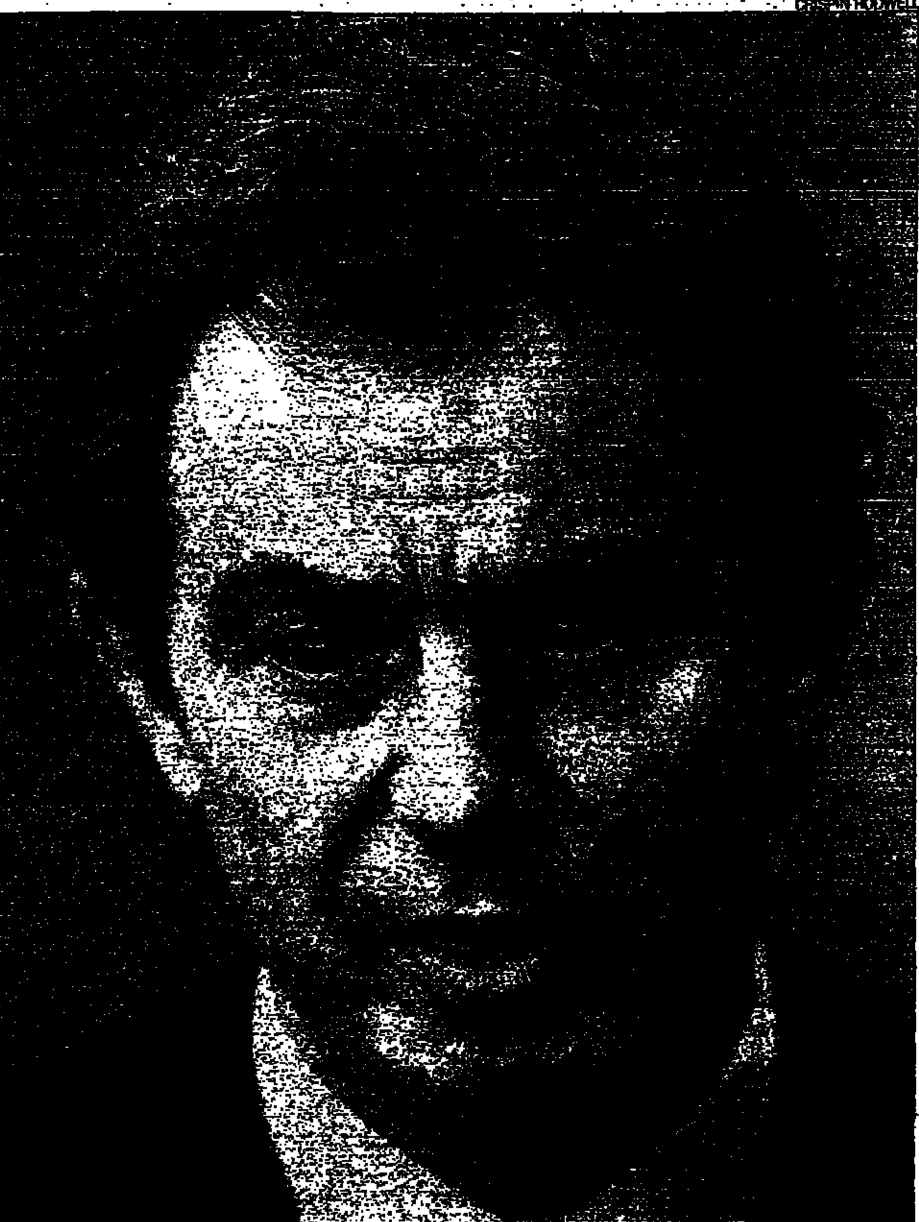
With the enlargement of Nato earlier this month, there is now a border in Hungary between it and Serbia. Blair believes that Nato cannot turn a blind eye to a conflict just over its border and that the peace and security of Britain depends on the credibility of Nato.

Bombing President Milosevic will have been the most momentous decision of Blair's premiership so far. But once taken there have been no second thoughts.

According to close friends, his biggest motivation will have been his strong moral sense. "It was what drove him on with regard to Iraq. It is what has driven him on in regard to Northern Ireland. He abhors human suffering and he abhors avoidable human suffering."

The saying attributed to Burke — "It is necessary only for the good man to do nothing for evil to triumph" — is one that is said to sum up Blair's approach to this and the Iraq crisis last year.

According to the senior backbencher Gerald Kaufman, Blair's Christianity is a powerful force. "He believes the Good Samaritan should not pass by on the other side. He believes that things have got to be done. He simply believes it is his job to do them."



Tony Blair in Belfast on Tuesday. He held meetings from breakfast until past midnight



Blair asking the public on Friday to support air strikes

Teachers seek help with violent pupils

Secure hospital is helping to train nursery staff, reports John O'Leary

STAFF from a high-security hospital are training teachers to deal with disruptive children as young as three. The courses designed by Ashworth hospital on Merseyside, which houses some of the most violent criminals, instruct teachers on how to restrain violent pupils and how to defuse their anger.

The training was disclosed at the conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, where delegates called for training in restraint methods to be offered to all schools.

John Williamson, who works at Kilgarth School on The Wirral, said he used the techniques taught by Ashworth every day because his school catered for teenage boys with behavioural problems. "Other teachers may find themselves in a situation like this only once a term or once in a career, but it can terminate a career. If you don't know how to hold a child, it can be particularly dangerous," he said.

Nursery teachers have received the training, and Mr Williamson said that young children were increasingly using violence such as kicking and biting. These were a particular problem to deal with, he said. "Small children can slip to the ground and cause considerable damage to you and themselves. You need to be trained in ways of preventing that, such as bringing yourself down to their level."

> 'Teachers may find themselves in a situation like this only once, but it can terminate a career'

The three-day courses include instruction on how to pin down pupils' arms to give time to defuse a violent incident. The advice on "de-escalation" includes avoiding threatening body language and giving potentially violent pupils a way out of a conflict without losing face. Tom Capper, of Bridgewater School, Cheshire, described an 11-year-old pupil crawling under his desk, ripping up a textbook and eating it. "This kind of incident disrupts the education of other children.

"We need special training to deal with it because if you have got 34 other kids in the class you have got a megaproblem if one says he simply isn't going to work."

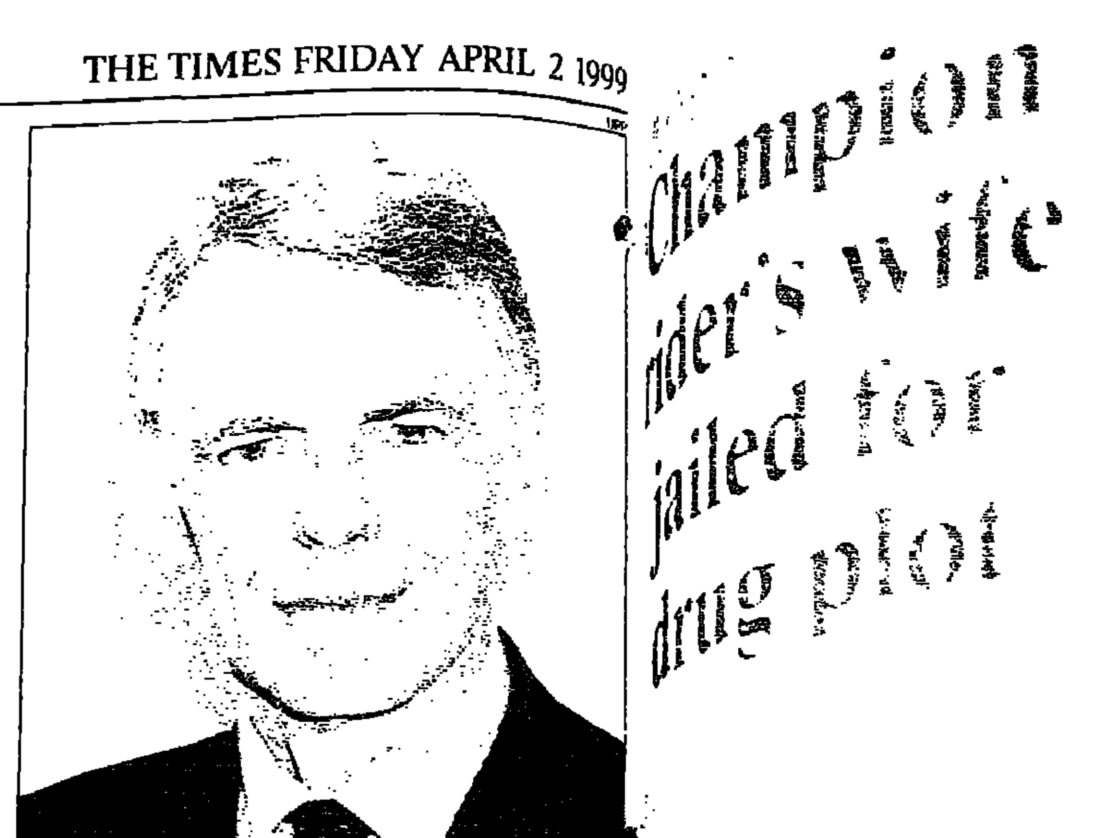
Government guidelines issued last year set down limits on the degree of "reasonable force" that teachers can use to control pupils. But delegates said yesterday that the guidance was useless without training in effective techniques.

They said the Government's policy to integrate more children with emotional and behavioural difficulties into mainstream schools meant that teachers were facing increasing violence.

Few schools or colleges offer training in restraint, despite a sharp rise over recent years in the number of pupils excluded because of violence. Andy Speake, of Tavistock College, Devon, said that most schools relied on a senior member of staff to be "on call" to deal with threatening pupils.

Delegates backed a motion that drew parallels between the Government's policy of teaching children with special needs in mainstream classes and the "well-intentioned but ill-fated Care in the Community" programme for mentally handicapped people.

They called for the "reasonable force" rules to be delayed until schools were adequately funded and teachers properly trained to deal with disruptive children.



Peter Smith: claims of policy successes are premature

Labour accused of deceit over policy

By Our Education Editor

A UNION leader launched a stinging attack on Labour's stewardship of the education service yesterday, accusing ministers of "designer deceit".

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said that the misleading "spin" put on government policies was convincing teachers that ministers were more concerned with winning the next election than implementing change in the classroom. "The Government has got to sell itself to teachers, who want sound policy, not soundbites."

Mr Smith told delegates to the association's annual conference in Harrogate: "If this Government comes to be seen as one that specialises in château-bottled chicanery and designer deceit, which values pagers above principles, then a fickle electorate will turn away and it will see politicians as part of the problem, not part of the solution."

Ministers' premature claims for the success of their literacy strategy and other national initiatives were the most glaring examples of deceit, Mr Smith said later. The constant reannouncement of expenditure to create an exaggerated impression of investment was another.

Only teachers could deliver the improvements ministers sought, Mr Smith said, but the Government was operating increasingly through diktat. In particular, there had to be genuine consultation on performance-related pay, which is dominating the Easter round of teacher union conferences. Mr Smith said that next year's introduction of annual appraisal for teachers should be a pilot that should be used to design a permanent scheme.

Black teenagers spurn university

By Hannah Betts

NEARLY 90 per cent of Asians are in full-time education at 16, compared with 80 per cent of black children and just under 70 per cent of whites, a study has found.

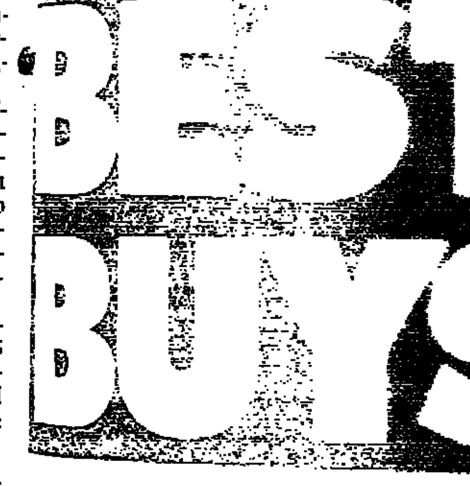
However, only just over 10 per cent of black pupils intend to go on to university compared with a quarter of whites and almost 30 per cent of Asians. Almost half of black 18-year-olds planned to pursue general national vocational qualifications, a significantly higher proportion than among white or Asian students.

The Youth Cohort Study was produced for the Department for Education and Employment from a series of surveys conducted across England and Wales.

Baroness Blackstone, the Education and Employment Minister, applauded the commitment of Asian teenagers, but said: "We are determined to bring the attainment of underachieving ethnic-minority pupils to that of the school population as a whole."

The Government also announced yesterday that 68.5 per cent of teenagers now continue their education beyond 16, the highest percentage since records began in 1985.





Champion rider's wife jailed for drug plot

By A Correspondent

THE wife of the former European showjumping champion Paddy McMahon has been jailed for 12 years over a £2 million cocaine shipment.

Patricia McMahon, 50, became involved in the scheme after falling in love with the drug smuggler Tony Lavene, Isleworth Crown Court was told. She was arrested last July after a four-month Customs operation uncovered the plot to import cocaine from Peru in pots of asparagus.

The court was told that McMahon, from Fringford, near Bicester, Oxfordshire, had a "lonely" marriage and fell in love with the "charming, plausible, manipulative and clever" Lavene, 54, whom she met shortly after his release from a 14-year sentence for a similar offence.

The pair rented a flat in Chelsea, and always paid their rent in cash. Although the flat had a telephone, both Lavene and McMahon were regularly seen using a payphone outside.

Philip Katz, for the defence, said: "She was consuming large amounts of cocaine, large amounts of drink and behaving in a bizarre fashion.

"Lavene always had large amounts of cash in his pockets and they were spending it like water."

The pair plotted to use McMahon's South American society contacts to arrange a shipment of 16.96kg of cocaine, the court was told. A Peruvian, Rene Black, organised for the consignment to be sent to Britain via Madrid. But British Customs officers intercepted the drugs in Spain, and followed them through Heathrow to a caravan in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Three men were arrested in a swoop on the caravan on July 19 last year, and McMahon, Lavene and two other suspects were picked up later that day. Nigel Ingram, for the prosecution, said that the caravan held "all the paraphernalia of weighing, packing and sending the stuff on its way".

Mr McMahon watched from the public gallery as his tearful wife, who had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to smuggle cocaine, was sentenced at the end of an eight-week trial. She wept as Mr Katz said that Lavene "was making her feel very special for the first time" and that she had been "completely suppressing all the common sense and all the standards she had lived by for the rest of her life."

"She cannot believe how stupid she was, getting involved in this," he said.

Judge Andrew McDowall told McMahon: "I can accept that you were not the one who started this enterprise. But you were involved in it . . . and you expected substantial financial benefit."

Lavene, from Crewe, Cheshire, was due to be tried at the same hearing, but escaped from Wormwood Scrubs two weeks before it began. There is a warrant out for his arrest.

Ronald Walker, 51, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, was also convicted of conspiracy. Four other men were cleared.



LEWIS DURHAM

Easter chicks: Pebbles and Bam Bam, two Cape Eagle owls born recently at Eagle Heights in the Darent Valley in Kent which breeds birds of prey

Dog track pair guilty of cruelty

By Shirley English

TWO men who tied a live rabbit to a mechanical hare at a greyhound track and let a dog chase it were sentenced to 200 hours' community service yesterday after being found guilty of cruelty.

The rabbit was still alive at the end of its 20-second ordeal and was then thrown to the dog, which killed it.

Animal rights campaigners, who secretly filmed the incident last October at Albert Park race track, Hawick, in the Borders, said that the sentence was too lenient.

Frank McFarlane, track manager, and Roy Burns, a dog owner, were facing a maximum £5,000 fine, a six-month sentence and a life ban on keeping animals. The judge at Jedburgh Sheriff Court said the order reflected the fact that they were first offenders.

Murdered nanny 'wanted to leave Briton's US home'

By Stephen Farrell and Damian Whitworth

THE British engineer charged with murdering his children's nanny, who was his lover, in the US is thought to have beaten her to death with a wrench when she told him she wanted to end their relationship.

David Taylor, 43, is being held in custody in Connecticut accused of killing 22-year-old Slovakian-born Milena Pitkova, who was found dead from head injuries at his rented house in the affluent seaside town of Madison on Tuesday morning.

His 14-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter, who were in the house, were last night being cared for by US social services as their British mother prepared to fly out and bring them home.

Although Connecticut has the death penalty by lethal injection, it has not been used since 1977 and prosecutors must prove the murder took place while another crime was being committed.

Mr Taylor, who worked for the engineering firm Thermatool Corp, moved to Connecticut from Basingstoke, Hampshire, in November 1996 after the break-up of his 16-year marriage. Ms Pitkova was hired in Britain and moved with him.

His ex-wife, Susan Lemon, who has reverted to her maiden name, last night refused to speak at the home in Chippenham, Wiltshire, she shares with her new partner, David Hollins. Mr Hollins said: "We spent all of yesterday contacting the necessary people and making plans. The children are safe and will return home as soon as possible. We have made the arrangements."

Mr Taylor is thought to have called police at 12.30am on Tuesday to say he had killed someone. An autopsy showed any one of three blows Ms Pitkova received to the head would have been enough to kill her. An attempt had been made to strangle her.

Friends in Madison yesterday said Ms Pitkova grew tired of working as a nanny, having looked after the Taylor children for three years. She wanted to move out and visit her parents in Slovakia.

"She did want to go on her own," said Holly Magee, owner of the coffee shop where Ms Pitkova worked. "I think she was getting tired of doing that kind of work. She was a very European beauty. She had a tiny build and was always immaculate."

Before moving to the US, Mr Taylor worked for Thermatool Europe in his home town of Basingstoke. The company's managing director, Paul Wallace, said Mr Taylor moved abroad because "he wanted a change" around the time of his marriage break-up.

Religious groups spared wage rule

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

STEPHEN BYERS has agreed to amend the rules on the national minimum wage to exempt members of religious communities.

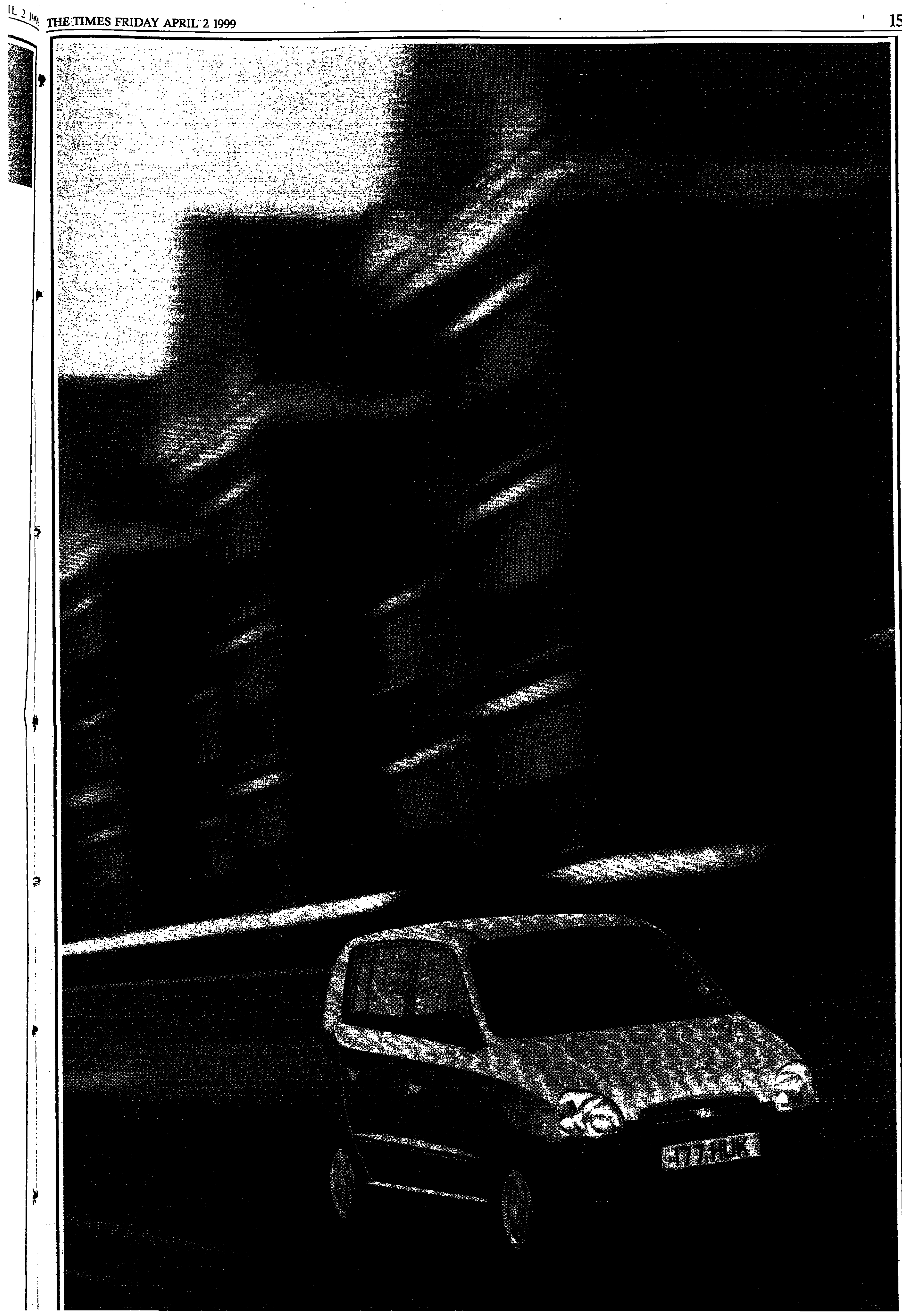
The Trade and Industry Secretary is to alter the Employment Relations Bill to exempt all such communities after protests that the application of a statutory hourly rate could force them to close. In a parliamentary answer on Wednesday, Mr Byers published the Low Pay Commission's recommendation that religious communities be exempt from the minimum wage, which came into effect yesterday.

This is unlikely to affect monasteries and convents, where salaries are not generally paid, but could save communities where people devote their lives to helping others and volunteer to take subsistence wages.

The Government has now said it will have to amend the Employment Relations Bill which was carried in the Commons on Wednesday night and now goes to the Lords. "The Government accepts the commission's recommendation that members of intentional communities should not be covered by the national minimum wage and proposes to introduce a suitable amendment to the 1998 Act through the Employment Relations Bill," Mr Byers said yesterday.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, claimed credit for the change, insisting he had made representations to Mr Byers on behalf of the bodies affected. "We have revealed yet another bungle in the minimum wage regulations," he said.


HYUNDAI


L77 HUK

Doctors argue over urgent treatment of breast cancer

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

SPECIALISTS in breast cancer have clashed over whether those with the disease have more chance of survival if they are treated within three months of first finding symptoms. The argument coincided with a government announcement that, as promised before the election, women with a suspected breast cancer would henceforth be seen within two weeks of "urgent" referral from their GP.

Two diametrically opposed papers are published by *The Lancet* today. One, based on 100,000 case studies worldwide going back 70 years, argues that 500 lives a year could be saved if delays in treatment were cut to less than three months. The other, based on 36,200 cases in Yorkshire since 1970, argues that it makes no difference to survival rates if treatment is delayed for longer than that, and that keeping the Government's promise will divert resources from more urgent services.

The international study was made by collating evidence from 87 research papers. Carried out by a team led by Mike Richards, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund team at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London, it found that in a third of cases the interval between a woman noticing a symptom and being treated exceeded three months. The long-term survival rate among those treated between three and six months after the symptom was noticed was 5 per cent lower than among those treated more promptly.

The longer treatment was delayed, the worse the chances of survival became. "The tumours grow and the disease progresses to an advanced stage which is more difficult to treat," Professor Richards said. "Even moderate delays are important."

The other study, by Richard Sainsbury, consultant breast surgeon at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, focused on 5,700 patients diagnosed between 1986 and 1990: patients who were treated in fewer than 30 days from the time the symptom appeared had significantly worse outcomes because they had a more aggressive form of the disease. He argues that treating all patients more quickly would not significantly alter the number of deaths.

"Cancer takes many years to develop and you are not going to tell me that by the time the tumours become palpable it is going to make any difference if treatment is delayed a month or so," Mr Sainsbury said.

"From an anxiety point of view it is important that anyone with a lump gets it sorted out as soon as possible, but that means a woman needs to be seen by a specialist. There are only about 350 specialists in the country so this new 14-day pledge means that in a lot of trusts patients will have to be seen by untrained junior people who cannot be sure to get the diagnosis right, defeating the object of the exercise."

The ICRF data "fit in with what the Government is trying to do but those of us who have to deal with patients hands-on are very sceptical about being whipped into line to deliver on an election promise", he said.

A commentary in *The Lancet* on the two papers sides with Mr Sainsbury. "Adequate resources for care appropriate to the medical demands of the disease and to the psychological needs of the patient are likely to yield better returns than an obsession with speed," writes Alan Coates, of the Australian and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group.

GPs TO BE ALERTED TO UNCOMMON SYMPTOMS

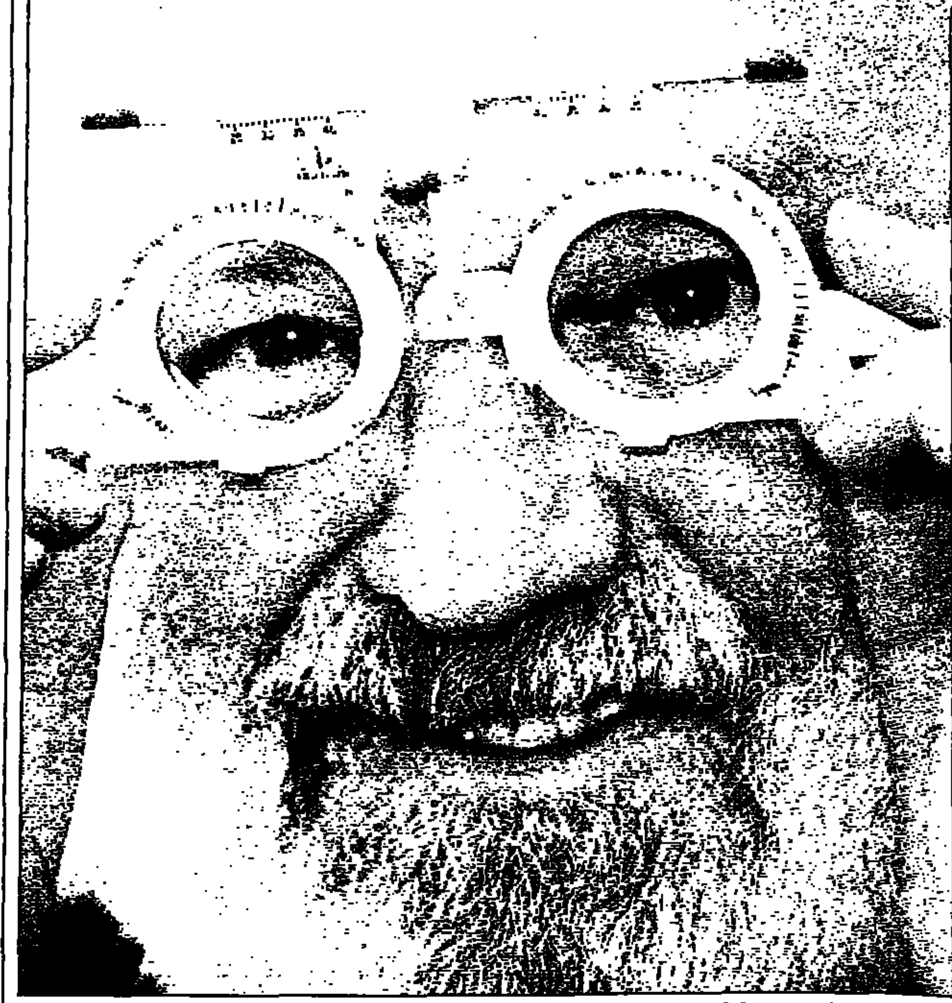
Although the breast screening programme picks up about 7,000 early cases of cancer a year, three quarters of tumours are diagnosed after doctors suspect that women have developed symptoms of the disease (Ian Murray writes).

In about 70 per cent of cases the symptom is a lump — although only 10 per cent of women with a lump has cancer — but the other symptoms are less well known, even to GPs. The NHS Breast Screening Programme and the Cancer Research Campaign are drawing up a checklist to help doctors to identify them.

Women who have less-common symptoms are more likely to delay seeing their doctor, and doctors are less likely to refer them quickly to a specialist than those who have a lump. Older women, those from minority ethnic groups and those with a lower level of education all tended to delay seeking advice from their doctor.

The list of cancer symptoms includes: persistent localised lumpiness in the breast of a woman over 30; inversion of one nipple; bloodstained discharge from a nipple; persistent infection in the breast of a woman who is not breast feeding; new dimpling of the skin; and eczema around the nipple.

Half the women who have breast cancer wait about a month after detecting a symptom before going to see their GP.



Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who turns 60 next year, visits an Edinburgh optician to promote yesterday's introduction of free eye-tests for the over-60s

Cervical smear programme 'not cost-effective'

By Our Medical Correspondent

SMEAR tests have led to a 35 per cent fall in the number of cases of cervical cancer and probably saved 800 lives in 1997 alone, according to a study published today.

In spite of the success, however, too much money is being spent on the programme according to researchers from the national cancer registration bureau at the Office for National Statistics.

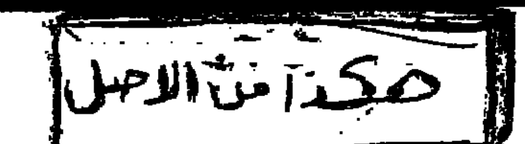
They write in the *British Medical Journal* that the service is not cost-effective largely because many women have a test every three years instead of every five years as recommended. This pushes the cost up to £132 million a year. "This is about four times the cost of the breast-screening programme, which aims to reduce annual breast cancer deaths by 1,250.

"Costs of cervical screening could be reduced substantially, with little loss in effectiveness, by screening all women every five years — there is little benefit but enormous increase in costs in opportunistic screening at shorter intervals than those recommended — and by not continuing to screen women over 50 who have had two or three consecutive normal results."

Screening began in the early 1960s but provision was so patchy that it had little effect on the death rate. From 1950 to 1987, mortality from the disease fell by 1.5 per cent each year, with deaths decreasing from 2,500 in 1950 to 1,800 in 1987. Little of the fall in mortality during this time can be ascribed to screening because so few women over 55 who died from the disease had been screened.

Since the programme was introduced nationwide, the decline in the death rate has trebled. By 1997, the number of deaths was 1,150. This represents 2 per cent of all cancer deaths in women and 0.4 per cent of all deaths in women.

In 1988, when the national programme began, 42 per cent of women took part but this quickly rose to the present 85 per cent, with 4.5 million smears a year.



April 1: the day that fools weathermen

Yesterday was one of the hottest, but snow is perplexingly common, reports **Adam Sherwin**



Scarborough fair: a stroll on the resort's South Bay beach was one way to enjoy British temperatures that exceeded those of Rome, Madrid and Athens yesterday at 21C (69.8F)

SHAKESPEARE wrote of "the uncertain glory of an April day" but All Fool's Day, one of the most capricious in the weather calendar, produced temperatures to rival the hottest on record yesterday.

Easter holidaymakers revelled in the sun as temperatures reached 21C (69.8F) in London and the South West, challenging the hottest April 1 of the century, 22.6C (72.9F) recorded at Wryde, Cambridgeshire, in 1907 and the runner-up, 22C (71.6F) at Cromer, Norfolk, in 1990.

Although forecasts that the temperature could reach 23C (73.4F) proved optimistic, central and southern England still put many other parts of the world in the shade. A cloudy Rome reached 18C (64.4F), New York and Madrid managed only 16C (60.8F) and Athens languished with thunderstorms and 15C (59F). Paris was a rarity in mainland Europe, enjoying 21C and some sun.

Predicting the weather for April 1 has confounded meteorologists. A white Easter is more common that a white Christmas for many Britons: snow has fallen during the Easter break 12 times in the past 40 years. Last year, Wales and the North West suffered power cuts after heavy snowfalls and the Midlands had some of the most severe floods this century.

The worst Easter weekends in recent memory were 1994, which began with severe storms on Good Friday and continued with widespread lowland snow, and 1964, when temperatures barely reached 6C (42.8F) and raw winds led to the coldest Easter Day for 81 years.

The warmest Easter weekends since the Second World War were in 1960, 1969 and 1984. The Meteorological Office believes that Easter 1949 was the best this century, when temperatures in London rose to 29C (84.2) on Easter Saturday.

Yesterday's sunshine and cloudless skies were due to a band of high pressure sweeping up from the Azores. The front was predicted by Piers Corbyn, whose Weather Action forecast centre uses the Solar Weather Technique. Pinning down All Fool's Day is an annual challenge, he said.

"Our long-range forecast from last September held up well: we said it would be pretty hot. You can get such an extraordinary variation, from sun to snow, sometimes in the same day." An explanation for April Fool's Day fluctuations across the years was offered by Stephen Roberts, managing director of Cunningham Weathernet, which provides weather information to the insurance industry.

"In spring, Britain comes under the influence of a high altitude jetstream. A slight shift in this stream and the country can suddenly fall beneath northerly Arctic winds or warm southerly ones," he said.

Amateur meteorologists have discovered their own methods for divining the weather on April 1. Peggy Cole uses country lore based on observing the natural world around her Ipswich home. She is not surprised that the 1907 peak has not been topped.

"The blackthorn shrub is still one mass of white blossom, so it won't be all that wonderful," she said. "When the leaves fall off and the daffodils start to look tired, then summer will be upon us."

Forecast, page 28

TIMES PAST

On this day in 1907 (Adam Sherwin writes), *The Times* reported: The Prince of Wales came to the aid of an upturned cab carriage in Windsor. He fetched his tools and corrected the damage. Upon learning that the driver had been in the Army, his Royal Highness sent him on his way with half a sovereign.

The Home Secretary advised the King to commute a capital punishment sentence passed on Horace George Rayner to life imprisonment. Mr Rayner said: "I would prefer to get the whole business over and done with instead of having to endure years of misery behind bars."

The Labour Party has emerged as a "new and powerful" group in Parliament. *The Times* gives warning that the party's "financial and electoral power lies with the trade unions" and notes that "the working classes voted mainly Labour in the general election but they did not vote for socialism".

Radio HQ beseiged after pop hoax

By Russell Jenkins, North West Correspondent

ANGRY parents and children gathered outside the Radio City commercial station in Liverpool yesterday to protest at an April Fool's Day prank.

A disc jockey at the station said that the chart-topping group Steps would be appearing on the steps of St George's Hall in the city centre at midday to say thank you to their loyal fans.

Several hundred children, many with parents in tow, went to the famous landmark only to learn that they had been fooled. About 50 then marched to the station's headquarters in Stanley Street, where staff barricaded the door.

The children and parents held an impromptu demonstration while staff attempted to placate them by distributing Easter eggs.

Pamela Rotherham, who had taken her eight-year-old niece as a treat, said: "This is a very sick April Fool's Day prank. The kids are so disappointed.

"I brought my niece along as a birthday present because she is nine tomorrow. She was close to tears. She absolutely idolises the band. I don't know how to console her."

Tom Hunter, managing director of Radio City, later apologised for the upset. "We were under siege for a few hours. The only thing we could do was throw hundreds of Easter eggs at everybody to try to placate them.

"Nothing like this has happened before. There were quite a few children involved. Some of their parents were also taken in and they got quite angry."

Early man has years lopped off his age

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE human species is half a million years younger than previously believed, according to two British anthropologists.

After taking a new look at fossil remains found in Africa, they suggest that two species previously called *Homo* ought properly to belong to a pre-human genus, *Australopithecus*.

If the reclassification suggested by Bernard Wood and Mark Collard is accepted, the first creature to merit the name *Homo* is the early form of *Homo erectus*, which appeared on the scene 1.9 million years ago. This was the species that first left Africa and colonised the world.

The scientists say that two earlier species, *Homo habilis* and *Homo rudolfensis*, should really be classified as australopithecines — ancestors of man rather than man himself. The earliest traces of *habilis* date from 2.3 million years ago, and of *rudolfensis* from 2.4 million years ago.

The naming and classification of species, especially human and pre-human species, has always been controversial. The competition to find the earliest species that can be classified as man is intense.

Professor Wood, of George Washington University in Washington DC, and Dr Collard, of University College London, write in *Science* that there are many reasons to exclude *habilis* from the genus *Homo*. Body mass and proportions, the shape of the skeleton, the size of the teeth and jaws, and evidence that the species had an extended period of growth and development all had to be taken into account.

Early *Homo erectus* gave rise to a later form that was the first inhabitant of Britain, Boxgrove Man. He lived in what is now Sussex 500,000 years ago.

Restraints tested to reduce injuries

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE are to test leg restraints to see if they can reduce injuries from violent prisoners who kick and headbutt officers after arrests, the Association of Chief Police Officers confirmed yesterday.

Sussex Police will test one system that uses Velcro straps and another known as the Viper — Violent Persons Restraint System — which uses webbing to hold the arms and ankles. Northamptonshire Police, said that many officers were injured by prisoners who lashed out as they got in or out of police vans. The restraints could also prevent headbutting because prisoners would not be able to keep their balance to launch such an attack. All three types of restraint had been passed by a medical expert in accident trauma.

"We are trying to do our best to make people safer — not only ourselves but also the prisoners," Mr Boatman said.

Cleaning reveals early Poussin worth millions

Restorers found a masterpiece hidden behind the grime of centuries, reports Russell Jenkins



Before restoration, left. *Landscape with Bacchus and Ceres* was thought to be by one of Poussin's followers and depict shepherds. Cleaning revealed an erotic mythological scene

AN OIL painting once dismissed by Sir Anthony Blunt as being almost worthless has been authenticated as an early masterpiece of the 17th-century French artist Nicolas Poussin, worth millions of pounds.

The landscape was banished to the vaults of the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool until careful restoration revealed the tell-tale signs of the young master at work.

Experts became suspicious when they began cleaning the grimy painting known traditionally as *Landscape with Arcadian Shepherds*. Paintwork thought to be a shepherd's crook was exposed as a trick of light, and there were no shepherds.

The painting actually depicts a Greek mythological scene with Bacchus reaching up to a vine to grasp a bunch of grapes. Nearby a satyr reclines beside a nymph with cornflowers in her hair, and the goddess Ceres. Xanthe Brooke, the Walker's curator of European art, was happy to rename the painting *Landscape with Bacchus and Ceres*.

It went on public display yesterday for the first time since its authentication. It is regarded as an important discovery because it sheds light on a previously little-known era in Poussin's life.

He arrived in Rome from Normandy in the spring of 1624 aged 30 as a little-known artist struggling to find patrons. Little is known about his career until 1627, when he began to produce commissioned work. Scholars at the Louvre and the National Gallery were able to authenticate the painting when the X-ray pictures revealed that the hard-up young artist had used the canvas at least three times. Pigment analysis confirmed the findings.

Ms Brooke said: "We discovered at least two other attempts at compositions on this canvas. Our findings matched similar cleaning and research being carried out elsewhere, including the National Gallery. They show close similarities."

The painting is part of the Walker's core collection, bequeathed to the gallery in the 1870s by its forerunner, The Liverpool Royal Institution. But nothing is known about the first two centuries of its life, and how it came to end up in Liverpool is a mystery.

It was once famously dismissed by Sir Anthony Blunt, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, as too crude to be a true Poussin and catalogued as painted by a follower of the artist. Cleaning has exposed some of the painting's flaws. In one spot ghostly heads of three women can be seen emerging from a hillside. A fault line in the canvas shows that it had originally been stretched on a frame and extended only later when the artist decided on a bigger canvas.

Ms Brooke said: "This is going to be of great interest because gradually more and more information is coming to light about Poussin's early life."

Such Bacchic landscapes peopled with nymphs and satyrs were popular subjects, not least for their erotic charge. It is thought that Poussin might have been trying to attract the interest of the collector Cassiano del Pozzo, who later became his patron.

"He was trying to create paintings that would sell and he produced a lot of these landscapes with nude male and female figures," Ms Brooke said. "By the 1630s he was painting the paintings he is best known for."

Short life of world's longest painting

By Paul Wilkinson
North East Correspondent

A CHINESE artist in the fishing port of Grimsby has landed the record for the world's longest painting with a scroll depicting 5,339 carp.

The 201.5-metre (661ft) watercolour *Culture 5000* has been validated by *The Guinness Book of Records*. It took Hai Shuet Yeung, 62, eight months to complete in his garage and first went on show at the fish market, the only building big enough in the North East Lincolnshire town.

But the painting, in which each carp represents a year of Chinese civilisation, will not be the world's longest for much longer. Mr Yeung intends to cut the 1.5-metre wide, £6,000 roll of artpaper into 100 sections for display in museums around the world.

"Before it is cut up I will have it put on CD-Rom," he said. "I hope the first piece will go to a museum in Beijing and the last to the Millennium Dome in London, symbolising the cultural bridge between the two countries. The scroll combines water, the universal symbol of life, with the east Asian icon of good fortune."

Mr Yeung taught chemistry in Canton but moved to Hong Kong in 1958 because he feared arrest for caricaturing corrupt officials. He came to Britain in 1969 and runs a gallery above his wife's restaurant.

The world's largest painting, 6,730 sq metres (72,437 sq ft), was made by Australian students in 1990.



Yeung: will cut up image for display around world

Vienna's waltz king stuck to the gentleman's excuse me

MARY EVANS



Strauss: work embodies Vienna's effervescence

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THE Waltz King could not dance. Johann Strauss II, who wrote the *Blue Danube*, was far from being the debonair showman of popular belief, according to a new biography.

"He was as nutty as a fruitcake, an enormous fruitcake," said Robert Dachs, the Viennese author of *What Concern of Mine am I?*, to be published in Britain later this year. Studying hundreds of previously unknown letters, Dachs concluded that the composer of the vivacious music that caught the gaiety of 19th-century Vienna was not, after all, a loveable and amusing "dancing prince". Dachs said: "He didn't have the slightest humour and he could have been an invention of Kafka's. I don't think he was all there. In his letters, he says, 'I hate the sunshine.' I don't know why. He was also a terrible coward. When he was travelling in a train, he drew the curtains and hid under the bench. He was afraid of the dark, couldn't stand being alone and would go downstairs backwards as he couldn't stand the view."

Johann Strauss the Younger (1825-1899) — eldest son of the composer Johann Strauss I — is probably the most celebrated of the 19th century's light-music composers. His works include the operetta *Die Fledermaus*. In 1893, he was proclaimed one of the three most famous people in the world, along with Queen Victoria, one of his most ardent fans.

But there was madness in the family, and concern about his mental state recurs in his letters. In 1883, he wrote to a friend: "It is a sad consequence of my work that after each rehearsal I did nothing but torment my wife and myself to the extreme. Can it be different when your brains are no longer working properly?"

That Strauss could not dance, Dachs added, is remarkable. In one letter, he mentions that he never danced "in my life". There are, Dachs said, passages in other letters where he discusses being asked "by nice women to dance". Dachs said that "he always had to say 'sorry, I can't'."

Dachs's work has concentrated on the Viennese music, theatre and literature that the Nazis attempted to destroy because they regarded it as "Jewish" or otherwise "degenerate". Strauss was Jewish, Dachs said, although the Nazis tried to conceal that inconvenient fact. "Many people in Vienna knew he had Jewish roots, but anti-Semites did not want to hear about this." Comments in the letters overturn the assumption that Strauss did not regard himself as a Jew.

Emil Brix, director of the Austrian Cultural Institute in London, said that Dachs's findings about Strauss are "totally different from the normal image one has of him". But, he added, in a way he was typical of figures in Viennese culture. "There is an ambivalence, very often, between the outside and the inside character." Dachs will be lending material to an exhibition commemorating the centenary of Strauss's death at The European Academy for the Arts & Accademia Italiana, in Grosvenor Place, Central London, from May 11 to June 6.





Adams facing 'impossible' task over arms

Declaration likely to be seen as rewriting of Good Friday accord, says Martin Fletcher

TO SIGN up to the two Prime Ministers' declaration on April 13, Gerry Adams will have to do what he and his Sinn Fein colleagues have from the outset insisted they cannot do: persuade the IRA to disarm.

It will be an extraordinarily tough task. The IRA does not consider itself to have been defeated and sees disarmament as tantamount to surrender. In Ireland's long history of armed struggle, there is a tradition of arms being put away to rust, but never of their being given up.

The declaration is also likely to be seen as a rewriting of the Good Friday accord as a result of Unionist intransigence. Sinn Fein argued, with some justification, that the accord set no barriers to Sinn Fein's admission to government. However, it does aim to create the best possible environment for Mr Adams to set about the task.

It guarantees Sinn Fein its two ministerial posts in Northern Ireland's government, provided disarmament takes place. (Republicans had hitherto suspected that any act of decommissioning would merely lead to a new demand from Unionists whose real agenda was to keep them out of the executive.) It also does its best to remove any connotations of surrender, or of the IRA having to comply with a Unionist pre-condition that was not in the Good Friday accord.

The document describes decommissioning as an "obligation", not a "pre-condition". It talks of weapons being put "beyond use", not surrendered or handed over, and of that being done "on a voluntary basis". Decommissioning would be part of an "act of reconciliation" that would involve further moves towards the reduction of the British military presence in Northern Ireland, and could see loyalist paramilitaries giving up arms as well. In other words, the IRA would not be required to act unilaterally in a way that might suggest it alone was responsible for the past 30 years of "troubles".

The 12-day hiatus while the parties consider the document gets the republican movement past Easter, a hallowed period in its calendar because of the 1916 Easter rising. There would be no harder period for the IRA to give up arms.

It also leaves General John de Chestelain, head of the disarmament body, to determine the manner of decommissioning, not Unionists.

"I don't think we can be confident, but we can be hopeful of moving forward," Mr Adams said.

The risk for Mr Adams is that he will split the IRA. Some hardliners left in the autumn of 1997 because they opposed the peace process, and the so-called Real IRA was winning fresh recruits from the IRA before last August's Omagh bombing.

Other hardliners, notably in the republican stronghold of South Armagh, have grown disenchanted and may consider the giving up or arms, under whatever guise, to be a step too far.

STEPHEN DAVISON



Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness taking a break in negotiations

Fudge allows Trimble to endorse the declaration

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE declaration by Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern gives David Trimble just about enough "wriggle room" to endorse it without reneging on his repeated pledges to fellow Unionists never to admit Sinn Fein to Northern Ireland's new executive without a prior act of IRA disarmament.

It envisages sharing out ministerial posts before any decommissioning has taken place; but, at that stage, no devolution from London of actual power to what would effectively be an executive-in-waiting.

Mr Trimble can argue that this does not constitute the formation of an executive, or even a shadow executive, and there would be no obvious obligation on him to convene any meetings.

The Prime Minister's document blatantly ducks the question of whether devolution of power should take place before or after decommissioning. It merely says that devolution will take place "around the time" of the "act of reconciliation".

The document states that decommissioning is an "obligation" under the Good Friday accord and should be completed within two years. Mr Trimble will be able to present that as an unequivocal endorsement by the British and Irish Governments of his interpretation of the accord, as opposed to Sinn Fein's.

It also gives Mr Trimble what one official called a "communication cord" if the IRA fails to disarm. It commits all parties to the proposition that if decommissioning does not occur the Assembly will not confirm the nominations to the executive.

"I believe that the declaration has the potential to resolve satisfactorily the problems we have encountered with regard to proceeding with implementing the Good Friday accord," Mr Trimble said.

However, the First Minister must do a powerful selling job in the next 12 days and may well have to stave off a direct attempt by anti-accord Unionists to have the declaration rejected.

Unionists in the Assembly are divided 29-29 between those in favour of the accord and those opposed. If Mr Trimble loses any of those in favour, he will lose his majority. Constitutionally he needs only 40 per cent of the Unionist vote to approve key decisions, but in practice the loss of his majority would mean the loss of his authority.

"Technically I could continue if I lost one or more members, but morally I would be defeated and could not carry on much longer," he acknowledged recently.

Anti-accord members of his Ulster Unionist Party need only 60 signatures to convene an emergency meeting of the party's ruling council, where they could force a vote on the declaration.

But this is less of a threat to Mr Trimble. It is doubtful if the dissenters could succeed in calling a meeting before April 13 or that they would win the vote if they did.

'IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF THIS DIFFERENCE OF VIEW ABOUT TIMING . . . PREVENTED THE AGREEMENT FROM ADVANCING'

THE declaration delivered by the two Prime Ministers at Hillsborough Castle yesterday opens by emphasising the historic opportunity for a new beginning offered by last year's Good Friday agreement. It then details what has been achieved.

***Changes to both the Irish* Constitution and to British constitutional legislation, based on the principle of consent, had been approved. The Northern Ireland Assembly was elected last June. The international agreement signed in Dublin on March 8 provided for the establishment of the north-south ministerial council and implementation bodies.**

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission had been established and its members appointed, and the new Equality Commission has been legislated for. Comparable steps by Dublin were under way.

The needs of victims of violence and their families were being addressed in both countries. Commitments in the agreement over economic, social and cultural issues were being carried forward.

Steps had been taken towards normalisation of security arrangements and practices, while the Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland and the review of criminal justice were both well advanced in their work.

The declaration's text then says: "There is agreement among all parties that decommissioning is not a precondition but is an obligation deriving from their commitment in the agreement, and that it should take place within the time-scale envisaged in the agreement, and through the efforts of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning.

"Sinn Fein have acknowledged these obligations but are unable to indicate the timescale on which decommissioning will begin. They do not regard the agreement as imposing any requirement to make a start before the establishment of the new institutions. The UUP do not wish to move to the establishment of the new institutions without some evident progress with decommissioning.

"It would be a tragedy if this difference of view about timing and the sequence of events prevented the implementation of the agreement from advancing. We believe that decommissioning will only happen against a background where implementation is actively moving forward. Continued progress in establishing the new institutions will in itself create confidence. On the other hand, it is understandable that those who take the next steps in implementation should seek to be assured that these steps are not irrevocable if, in the event, no progress is made with decommissioning.

"*We therefore propose the* following way forward.

"On (date to be set) nominations will be made under the d'Hondt procedure of those to take up office as ministers when powers are devolved.

"*At a date to be proposed by* the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning but not later than (one month after nomination date) a collective act of reconciliation will take place. This will see some arms put beyond use on a voluntary basis, in a manner which will be verified by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning, and further moves on normalisation and demilitarisation in recognition of the changed situation on security.

"In addition to the *arrangements in respect of* military material, there will at all times be ceremonies of remembrance of all victims of violence, to which representatives of all parties and the two governments, and all churches, will be invited.

"Around the time of the act of reconciliation, powers will be devolved and the British-Irish agreement will enter into force.

"The following institutions will then be established: the North-South Ministerial Council, the North-South Implementation Bodies, the British-Irish Council and the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference.

"By (one month after nomination date), the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning will make a *report* on progress. It is understood by all that the successful implementation of the agreement will be achieved if these steps are taken within the *proposed* timescales; if they are not taken, the nominations mentioned above will fall to be confirmed by the assembly."

Five died after L-driver took bend at 90mph

By Helen Johnstone

A PREGNANT learner driver died with her three children and partner after the sports car she was driving crashed as she attempted to overtake at about 90mph on a blind bend.

Maria Allen, 26, who was almost six months' pregnant with twin boys, lost control of the BMW convertible and it collided with a coach on the A16 near Kenwick, Lincolnshire. Ms Allen held only a provisional licence and her partner, Stephen O'Malley, 43, a stonemason, was also unqualified to drive.

The accident happened last August as the couple returned to their home near Louth, Lincolnshire, with Ms Allen's children Laura, eight, Reece, five, and Shannon, one, after visiting relatives in Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

An inquest at Louth was told that Ms Allen had been following friends, John Krol and Anthony Snee, in another car. Mr Krol told the inquest that Ms Allen had chosen to drive the £31,000 BMW car, which belonged to Mr Snee, because she was more familiar driving an automatic.

Witnesses said Ms Allen had been overtaking a number of cars before the accident and had been unable to pull in before striking an oncoming coach carrying 37 passengers back from a day trip to Skegness. The car spun off the road and into a ditch, where it burst into flames. All five died instantly from head and multiple injuries.

Mr Krol said that Ms Allen, a part-time cleaner, passed him before overtaking several other vehicles just before the blind corner. "She must have been travelling at about 90mph. I saw her try to get back on to her side of the road but she lost control and collided with the bus." Mr Krol told the inquest he drove past the scene after panicking at the devastation he saw.

Frederick Rollason, of Dudley, West Midlands, the coach driver, said the car was going too fast for him to avoid the accident: "It was going like a bat out of hell." Neil Sharpley, the coroner, recorded verdicts of unlawful killing against Ms Allen's three children and Mr O'Malley and of accidental death against Ms Allen.



The Queen presenting Maundy money in Bristol yesterday. She joined prayers at the cathedral for those involved in the Balkans conflict

Mint wants to keep euro out of Maundy

By Mark Henderson

THE Royal Mint is seeking ways to keep the Queen's Maundy money in sterling should Britain join the euro.

As the Queen distributed the specially minted coins to 146 pensioners in Bristol yesterday, Mint officials said they planned to protect the custom of paying the money in 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p pieces should the pound be abolished.

"The Crown would try to maintain sterling," a Mint spokesman said. "We would not want to pay it in euros."

A Mint committee has already noted the potential impact of the euro on the future of the ancient alms. The Treasury Solicitor is to be consulted with a view to writing special protection for the Maundy coins into the legislation to change the currency.

Difficulties could arise as Maundy money has always been the legal tender — it went decimal along with other coinage in 1971. Buckingham Palace declined to comment yesterday on the future of the payments.

During yesterday's Maundy ceremony, which was held at Bristol Cathedral, the Queen joined prayers for those suffering in the Balkans conflict. Canon Peter Johnson said: "Let us bring before our heavenly Father the present conflict and suffering in the Balkans, and pray for the countless numbers of people made homeless and refugees in Kosovo, and for all the work of humanitarian aid that is now being undertaken."

The Queen handed out two purses to each of the 73 male and 73 female pensioners chosen for their work for Christian charities: the number of recipients and the amount given depend on the monarch's age. Each white purse contained 73 pence in silver coins, and the red one contained £5.50 in ordinary money, a traditional allowance for food and clothing originally paid in kind.

An additional alms dish was used for the first time this year because of the large number of recipients. The fourth gold and silver plate, which dates from the reign of Charles II but has a Queen Anne crowned rose in the centre, has a wide border within a flower and leaf motif with images of a horse, bull, boar and stag. The ceremony dates back almost 800 years to the reign of one of the Queen's less illustrious predecessors. King John is the first monarch to have been recorded dispensing alms to the worthy poor on Maundy Thursday, at Knaresborough in Yorkshire in 1210, the same year he was forced to sign Magna Carta.

The ceremony, in which the monarch once washed the feet of the poor before handing out alms — originally food and clothing — was adopted by his successors, but became an annual event attended in person by the Sovereign only under the present Queen.

Edward III instituted in 1363 the practice of marking the monarch's age in the ceremony, and Elizabeth I was the first to pay money rather than goods in kind.

Coins are minted in values of 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p, making a 10p set, and recipients get one such set for each decade in the Sovereign's age. The value is then topped up to equal the age with extra 1p coins. Maundy money is also handed out to choirboys and officials who take part in the service.

The coins are the only silver coins still issued in Britain. They feature the youthful likeness of the monarch for the entirety of her reign.



A silver 3p is among the four coins distributed

NEWS IN BRIEF



Woman who sought new life is killed in crash



A woman who left South Yorkshire early this year to find a new life in Tenerife with her childhood sweetheart has been killed in an accident on the island. Laura Barratt (right) and John Anderson had known each other since primary school days. Last week Miss Barratt, 19, was killed while riding pillion on a friend's sports motorcycle that went out out of control on a minor road. Yesterday Mr Anderson, 21, said: "We were making all sorts of plans and just before Laura died we were walking by the sea and she found a beautiful pebble. She gave it to me and told me to keep it for ever. I found another pebble that looked exactly the same and I gave it to her to keep for ever." An inquest will open later this month in Chesterfield.

Life of crime stubbed out

A burglar who was identified from DNA in saliva found on cigarette butts he left at the scene of his crimes was jailed for two years yesterday. David Newell, 32, broke into two homes at night and stole antiques and personal belongings. Forensic experts, in a fingertip search of the properties, found the butts with flecks of saliva, and carried out DNA tests. The national DNA database matched them with samples collected from Newell after a previous conviction, and he was traced and arrested. Newell, of Melksham, Wiltshire, who had admitted two charges of burglary, was sentenced at Swindon Crown Court.

Car is hit by hurled trolley

A car carrying two people was struck by a shopping trolley thrown from a footbridge, police said. The trolley was deliberately hurled from a footbridge over Crewe Road North in Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Police said. Keith Adam, 23, the car's driver, and his girlfriend, Karlyn Moughan, 21, of Edinburgh, were unhurt by the incident, yesterday morning.

A police spokesman said: "Luckily the occupants escaped without injury, but were shaken by the experience. This was an utterly reckless act that could have resulted in serious injuries and anyone with information about the incident should contact us." He asked for help from anyone who saw anything suspicious.

Asda flouts EU ruling

Asda has defied European regulations by importing designer sunglasses from outside the EU. The low-priced imports have enabled about 200 Asda stores to sell brands such as Ray Ban, Calvin Klein, Versace, Armani and Gucci for as little as 40 per cent of manufacturers' recommended prices. In a crackdown on such discounting last year, the EU ruled that companies could buy goods from sources other than the producer only if they were within the EU. An Asda spokeswoman said that the sunglasses were obtained from both within and outside Europe.

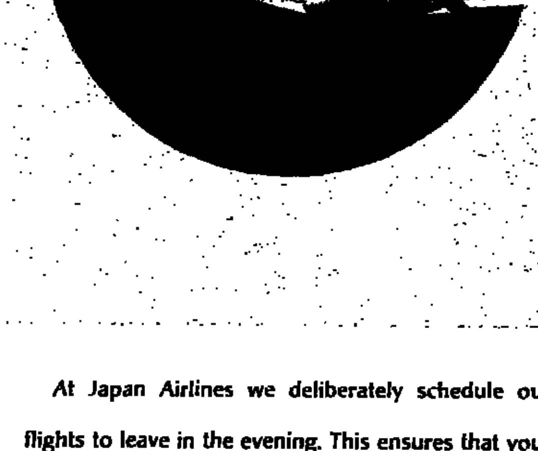
CORRECTIONS

☐ A report yesterday wrongly quoted Robert Slack, a university lecturer who won a claim for unfair dismissal and £13,000 compensation, as saying to his department head: "You are going to die, sunshine." In fact, the words used by Mr Slack were: "You are finished, sunshine," intended as a reference to his colleague's career. We apologise for the error.

☐ Numbers 160-162 Queen Victoria Street, London, are being developed as offices by QVS Developments Ltd, and not, as wrongly reported on March 20, by Skidmore Owings and Merrill as flats.









مكتبة الاهل

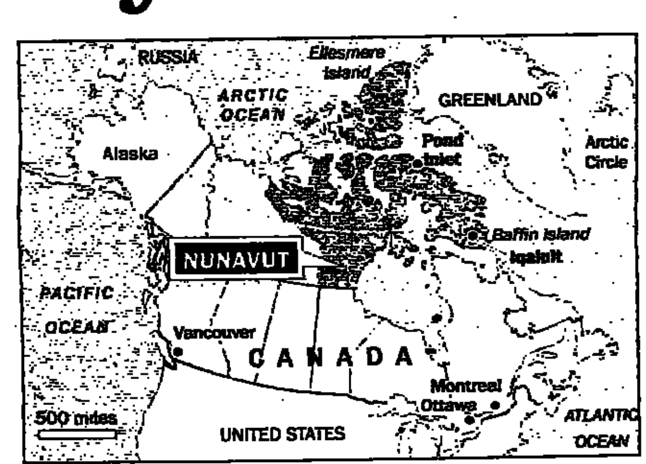
CARLO ALLEGRI / AFP



Midnight fireworks in Iqaluit mark the birth of the territory of Nunavut yesterday

Mounties to say sorry as new territory is born

By Giles Whittell



CANADA'S newest and largest territory came into being yesterday with a midnight firework display in sub-zero weather, a feast of raw seal meat, and the promise of an apology from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for their past sins against native Inuits.

Nunavut, meaning "our land", boasts 750,000 caribou but only one human per 39 square miles. In the first redrawing of the North American map in half a century, it became a separate territory at a ceremony attended by 1,000 shivering dignitaries.

The vast new entity, bigger than France, Germany, Italy and Spain combined, was hailed by its new leaders as an unprecedented experiment in self-government for native Canadians. Jane Stewart, the Indian Affairs Minister, called it "proof we are committed to reconciling aboriginal rights".

Promises of self-determination and lavish federal funding brought an astonishing 99 per cent of voters to the polls in the region's remotest districts, far north of the Arctic Circle, when its first election was held last month to return 19 delegates to a new assembly in the territorial capital of Iqaluit, on southern Baffin Island.

Hopes were high yesterday that Nunavut could reverse the dire social problems plaguing its Inuits, who comprise 85 per cent of the population but suffer from rampant drug and alcohol abuse and a suicide rate six times the national average. Nothing reflected the challenge more than its new leaders: Paul Okalik, the territory's first Premier, and James Arvaluk, the Education Minister, have both served jail terms for alcohol-related offences.

Haunted by the trauma of forced relocations by police to the region's northernmost islands in the 1950s, older natives languish on welfare and 3,000 of Iqaluit's 4,500 population receive federal support.

LINKS

http://www.inac.gc.ca/pubs/nunavut/index.html — The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement
http://www.nunatour.nt.ca/about.html — Nunavut Tourism
http://www.nunavutcelebrations.com/index_e.html — More about the celebartions

WORLD IN BRIEF

More deaths on Spice Islands

The Spice Islands have been hit by a fresh outbreak of Christian-Muslim violence that has claimed several lives, including those of a priest and his son (David Watts writes). By last night clashes on Ambon island involving machetes, arrows and shotguns had killed seven and injured many more, prompting people to flee. The latest unrest, sparked by anti-Muslim graffiti and a property dispute, centres on the town of Tual, 330 miles southeast of the provincial capital Ambon, which has seen some 200 people die in sectarian violence since January.

Quake aid 'too slow'

Gwai, India: Reports of inadequate relief efforts dominated national newspapers as another tremor toppled buildings in the Himalayan mountains of northern India yesterday, killing one person. Authorities feared more deaths in aftershocks from Monday's quake, in which at least 100 people died. The head of government of the stricken Indian state said he lacked the money to cope with the disaster. *(AP)*

Anwar trial ends

Kuala Lumpur: The marathon trial on four corruption charges of Anwar Ibrahim, the ousted Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, has ended after 77 days with the judge saying he needed extra time to give his verdict. Judge Augustine Paul postponed giving a verdict from April 6 to April 14, saying that the length of the submissions from both sides meant that ... his judgment. *(AFP)*

TV talk shows in dock for murder

By Damian Whitworth in Washington

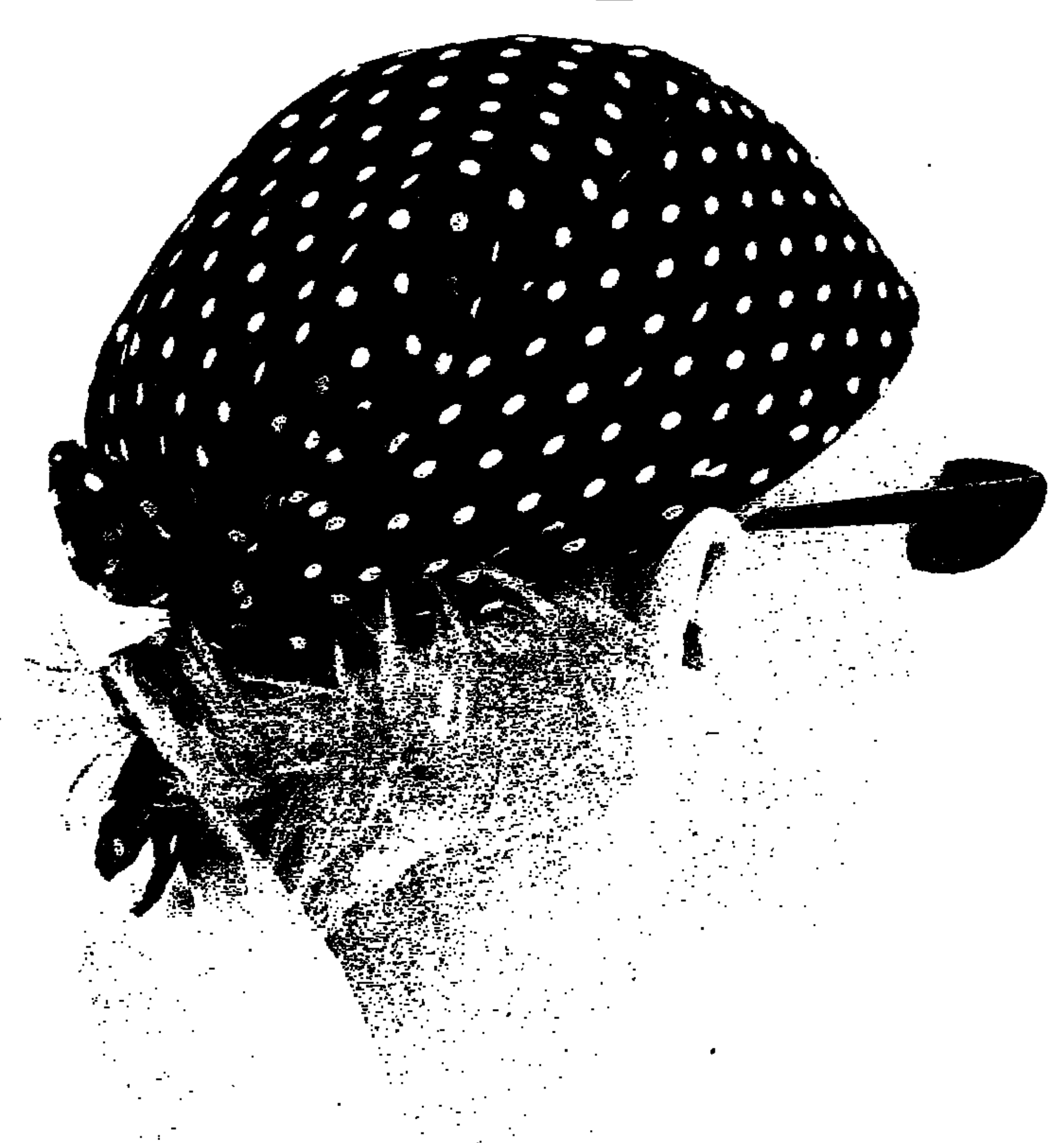
TRASH television talk shows are about to be exposed in a trial after a murder that involved a male participant who was confronted by an admirer who turned out to be a man.

Jonathan Schmitz says that when he went on a chat show to discover which of his friends had a secret crush on him he expected to be confronted with a woman. Instead he was introduced to his friend, Scott Amedure, who went on to outline his fantasy involving the two of them, lashings of whipped cream, strawberries and champagne. Three days later Mr Schmitz bought a shotgun, went to Mr Amedure's home and killed him.

The Jenny Jones Show, which engineered the encounter, is charged with complicity in the death. Geoffrey Fieger, the prosecution lawyer, will

SCOPE/TRANSWORLD

It's hip to have a square



CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

It is hard to see how the innocent headscarf got itself such a bad reputation. But there it is. The very word summons up visions of redoubtable females of a certain age, their heads wrapped in a firmly knotted length of material with which they are keeping in place their lower jaw (if posh) or their curlers (if not).

Still, the caprices of fashion work in unexpected ways, and after the unlikely rehabilitation of such terminally uncool articles as the Dr Scholl sandal, the desert boot and the Liberty flower print, it is now the headscarf's turn for a moment of fashion glory.

My mother, when I was growing up, always used to have at least two headscarves on the go — one knotted under her chin in the manner favoured by the Queen when she is out riding, and another attached to the handle of her bag. What the point of the second one was is anybody's guess. Bandage? Emergency dog lead? Fallback handkerchief? Blindfold for leading panicking horses out of a blazing stable? Whatever its theoretical purpose, I never saw the handbag scarf in action — although quite often they would stealthily untie themselves and get lost, which resulted in a good deal of lamentation and a private resolution on my part never to bother with anything so pointless.

But recantation is second nature to fashion victims. So I am only slightly surprised to find myself the doting owner of two glossy silk squares from which, this time last year, I would have recoiled with contempt. The process of conversion began with Hermès. For a long time I have admired the exquisite workmanship and intricate beauty of that company's classic silk scarves without ever really wanting to own one — too grand, I felt, for my somewhat haphazard look (Jane Birkin on a good day, the White Queen on a bad one).

But this season, alongside its distinctive classics, Hermès has produced a clutch of fresh, breezy designs: small silk squares to tie at the nape of the neck, peasant-style (*luxe* peasant, admittedly) and, for the beach or a summer picnic, cotton squares that claim to be machine-washable.

The designs, too, are less hieratic, brighter, with a strong element of fantastical narrative. Each scarf is described in the Hermès promotional booklet with a sort of little prose poem. "Each earthly day dying in blazing agony, so that each dawn can be reborn in the quartz of alarm clocks ..." runs the baffling text that accompanies Cosmos, a very pretty sky-blue design with Apollo in his chariot and a scattering of jacquard stars.

This kind of thing may enrage you or amuse you, depending on your tolerance for the French habit of intellectualising everything, even scarves. It should not deter you from investigating the new collection, which contains some dazzlingly pretty ideas, including *Charmes des Plages Normandes* — a seaside scene in vivid colours, *Azulejos*, a delicate pale-blue design based on 18th-century Portuguese tiles, and *Amours*, a giant daisy surrounded by cupids, mistletoe, bees and other symbols of love.

Large scarves are around £160, smaller ones £52. Cotton scarves, including a 1930s-inspired pattern with aircraft and famous pilots, are £110, and there are even children's silk scarves, packaged in little "book" boxes, printed with a complete story — choose from *The Fickle Budgerigar*, *Clovis the Crocodile* or *Loula's Summer*, £63.

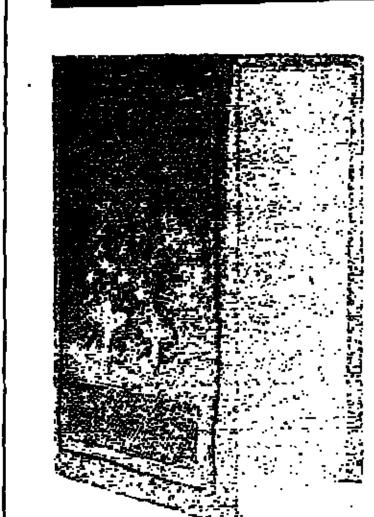
If these prices make you reel, Laura Ashley is putting up a brave show as a poor girl's Hermès, with some inspired Italian silk prints for around £30. Cream silk squares with delicate 19th-century bicyclists in pale blue and navy, or a garden design of bay trees, classical urns, flowerpots and artists' palettes are £30, or for £25 there is a small silk chiffon square with a French harbour scene of narrow houses and little boats.

Liberty takes up the horticultural theme with small squares printed with sweet peas, nasturtiums and daisies, £49. Larger versions of the same design are £75. Stylised sunflowers on silk chiffon are £95.

These Liberty prints reflect perfectly the spirit of the Liberty-inspired sundresses and floaty skirts now to be had in every store from Jigsaw to Joseph. But if you feel like getting creative over Easter, Liberty's fabric department has bolts of material in matching prints. By Easter Monday you could have run up a little frock. Add a straw basket and a pair of espadrilles, and there you are, transformed at the flick of a headscarf into an Eric Roehmer heroine.

SIX OF THE BEST

Noteworthy notebooks



EMBROIDERED, £37
Expensive but the fuchsia silk grasshopper-embroidered book cover is removable, extending the life of this Vietnamese embroidered trinket.
Minh Mang, 182 Battersea Park Road SW11 (0171-498 3233)
10/10

GREY FELT, £59
Thick and made from felt, this has handles – doubling as a cool bag seen on the laps of fashion editors at showtime.
Nicole Farhi Home, 17 Clifford Street W1 (0171-494 9051)
8/10

BORN TO SHOP, £25
Made in leather, etched in gold and filled with the trademark lined blue paper, this is for the serious shopaholic who needs to catalogue excessive purchasing and future desires.
Smythson, 40 New Bond Street W1 (0171-629 8558)
7/10



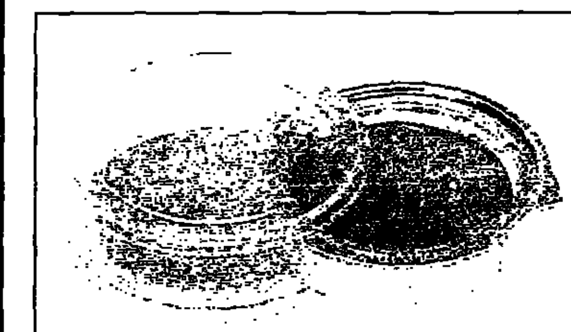
CHECK, £7.25
Checked silk fabric in pastel shades of lilac, mint and pink. Beautiful chunky notebook with paper in alternate sheets of purple and green.
Paperchase, 3-4 Percy Street W1 (0171-580 8496)
10/10

SUEDE, £29.95
Purple suede book of hand-made paper with "happiness", "forget me not", "joy" and "adventure" embossed on the front.
Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road SW3 (0171-589 7401)
7/10

PINK PLASTIC, £4.50
Available in a huge array of colours and sizes with a plastic cover and metal tag holder for correct labelling. Plain white paper inside.
Paperchase, 3-4 Percy Street W1 (0171-580 8496)
9/10

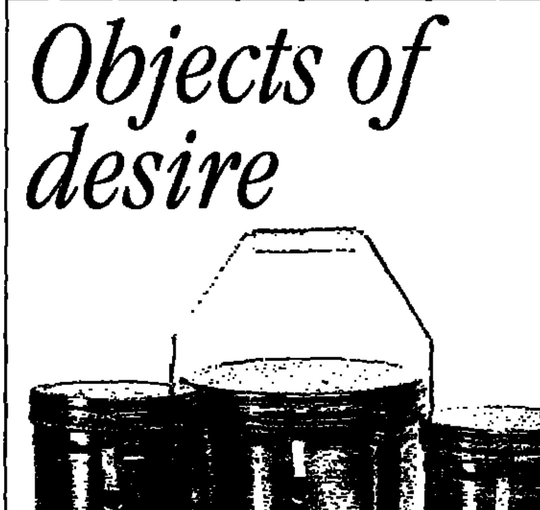
COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

HOT TIP

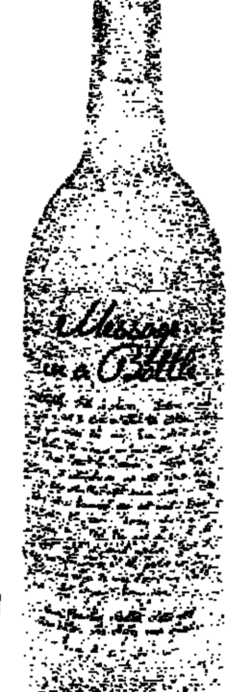


Eyebrows may shape the face but blondes have a tendency to end up looking like Groucho Marx when they try to fill them in. The answer is Ruby & Millie's eyebrow-shaper pallette in Zero: half is colour; half a clear balm to keep brows in shape. £8 from Ruby & Millie at large Boots stores nationwide (0171-636 7911).

Objects of desire

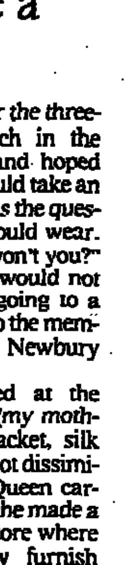


■ Aluminium tins come in various shapes and sizes. Stylish way to store anything from teabags to spaghetti. From £12-£30 at Debenhams (0171-408 4444)



■ Eau de nil-coloured bubble bath is made from blue algae, spirulina and sea kelp. In a delightful frosted glass bottle with a gushy message written on it, Message in a Bottle is almost too beautiful to use. £20 by Philosophy, from Space NK (0870 169 9999)

My mother, the football fan



At the age of 74, the mother of **Mark Palmer** has become a keen supporter of Reading

It was her idea. "I would love to watch a football match at the new Reading stadium," my 74-year-old mother said without warning one day over Sunday lunch. I thought little of it at the time. She had seemed to mention it in passing in the way that people say they would love to have lunch, but the diary never gets opened.

My mother's Saturday afternoon passions have rarely strayed beyond turning over the compost heap in her country garden, visiting friends or supporting local charities in her role as a Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire.

So I took my son to the next home game and afterwards we called in for tea and chocolate biscuits and she said: "You are lucky. He never takes me." I was on the telephone to the Reading box office on Monday morning before you could shout "Come on you Rs." Best seats in the house, please. Next to the directors' box. My mother and me.

It was to be Reading versus Wycombe Wanderers. Not exactly a top of the table clash, but a local derby on a spring afternoon in a spanking new £35 million all-seater stadium just off the M4 at Exit 11.

She had nearly two weeks to prepare. So did I. She had never been to a football match— unless you count standing on a muddy touchline watching me play for the under-tens in the Sixties. I always assumed that she hated the game.

Unlike my father. We used to go to watch Reading together — in fact it was one of the last things we did before he died. But, come to think of it, my mother did show an unexpected degree of interest in the World Cup. I remember her ringing me in France when England got knocked out and she sounded genuinely steamed up about the man she called "David Beckenham".

The pre-match build-up was intense. My mother has been ill and cannot walk far, so I telephoned the stadium and they kindly provided a parking space next to the main entrance. Then my mother got butterflies about getting stuck in traffic. She wanted to leave home at noon, which would mean getting there almost three hours before kick-off. "Just to be on the safe side," she said.

I called the stadium again and booked us in for the three-course, £24.99 lunch in the Royal Restaurant and hoped that each course would take an hour. Then there was the question of what she should wear. "You'll be in a tie, won't you?" she asked. I said I would not and that we were going to a football match, not to the members' enclosure at Newbury races.

When we arrived at the Madejski Stadium (my mother in her Husky jacket, silk scarf and handbag not dissimilar to the one the Queen carries when on duty), she made a dash for the Megastore where you can practically furnish your house and dress from head to toe in Reading FC merchandise.

"What lovely slippers," she said, before stopping at the sweatshirt section and persuading me to buy an old-style Reading shirt with a number 9 on the back in memory of our most famous player, Robin Friday, who died of booze and drugs.

We stretched lunch as long as possible and were in our seats by 2.45pm, only to learn that the kick-off had been delayed 15 minutes. No matter. She was enjoying the chants and rose to her feet when our lot began singing: "If you hate Wycombe stand up."

A large man with a long ponytail was sitting in front of us and his language was colourful, but it didn't faze my mother. Then she turned against the referee for giving the "red team", as she called them, an unnecessary number of free kicks. Her blood boiled when one of our defenders got a thump in the head.

Reading scored, but then Wycombe were awarded a penalty and we had a man sent off in the process. They missed the penalty, but by that stage my mother was confused. She counted up the number of blue shirts and realised Reading had only ten men. It took until half-time to explain that we would be playing with ten men for the rest of the match.

She went walkabout near the pie stand during the break. When I found her she was engaged in conversation with an elderly couple. The man had been coming to watch Reading since 1943, but this was the first time he had brought his wife. The two football virgins got on famously and my mother was surprised that the second half started without her.

Reading scored a second. She said: "This is wonderful." Then Wycombe pulled one back and she got nervous. With five minutes to go I suggested it might be wise to leave so as to miss the queues.

"We can't go now," she said, "it's far too exciting." Reading held on and at the final whistle she applauded the team off the pitch and smiled broadly. She was 74 going on 14.

It took us nearly an hour to get out of the car park. Then she said: "Can we come next week?"

I think we'll be on the coach to Wigan before the season's up, my mother wearing the polyester away strip with a number 9 on the back, waving a can of lager above her head. Funny old game.



ANTHONY UPTON

A game of two halves: Mark Palmer and his mother at the £35 million Madejski Stadium. They got there three hours before kick-off, just to be on the safe side

Pass me another cup of civet poop

Today I have something important to ask those of you who (a) count yourselves true coffee connoisseurs, and (b) also have medical cover which does not specifically exclude treatment for illnesses resulting from the ingestion of animal poop.

Tell me honestly: did you find that your coffee tasted *just a tad bitter this morning*?

Was it lacking that smooth flavour you can only be sure of getting when the world's finest coffee beans have been passed *through* the alimentary canal of a civet, and are then lovingly collected by coffee roasters who — I'll bet you're ahead of me here — turn this civet poop into pricey, aromatic coffees which you can serve to your guests without even letting them in on the joke?

Then I suggest you go to your coffee supplier and tell him firmly that you're not leaving his shop until he provides you with coffee beans which were once civet faeces — just like the prized Vietnamese coffee you just read about in *The Wall Street Journal*.

For those of you who think nobody would actually drink a liquid made from the stools of a fox-like animal, the *Journal* reports that there's nothing tastier than coffee brewed from civet poop — at least to a thirsty Vietnamense.

"With its long, sensitive snout," the *Journal* reported on its front page, (you see how big this story is?), "this finicky eater is legendary among old-time coffee growers here for sniffing out the best ripe robusta coffee beans and eating them from the low branches of the coffee bush. The hardiest beans survive the digestive process intact and, according to aficionados, are improved by it." Samantha Marshall, who reported this scoop, says the flavour's best if you *don't* wash the beans.

der is under threat because civet cats themselves have become a delicacy at Vietnamense dinner tables, thereby reducing the number of civet colons working on coffee production" (though, obviously, if you eat the *right* civet you can save time by consuming your dinner *and* your coffee in one go).

The other thing you try to imagine is: how did the first Vietnamese forest-stroller come to stare at civet doodoo and think, "I'll bet *that* makes a tasty beverage"? I've eaten plenty of food that tasted like dung, but it would never occur to me to chew a pile of animal pellets on the off chance of discovering a novel snack.

Did these Vietnamese pioneers *experiment* with many different strains of animal faeces over the decades before hitting the jackpot with civet dung?

Haven't these people heard of instant coffee? Wait — what if instant coffee is *made* from rare civet poop? That would certainly explain why the man in those Gold Blend commercials dithered for two years before finally summoning up the courage to kiss Sharon Maugham.

The worrying thing for zoologists may be that strewing its ordure all over the forest could just be the civet's way of protesting at man's encroachment of its forest habitat - the civet's equivalent of those IRA dirty protests: and we're lapping it up!

Can you imagine how demoralising this must be for young civets trying to make their name in the paramilitary movement? (*Civet Commander*: "How did the dirty protest go, young firebrand?" *Civet Firebrand*: "I think they ate it". *Commander*: "Ha ha, that'll make them choke, and teach them not to mess with civets." *Firebrand*: "Actually, they loved it. They've gone looking for more." *Commander*: "Yuk! They're nothing but animals.")

MAN UNDERNEATH

JOE JOSEPH

A timely reminder for all tyrants

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky examines the Sawoniuk verdict

The conviction of Anthony Sawoniuk has a significance far beyond ensuring justice for the Jews he killed in Belarus in 1942. It vindicates the courage of a small band of politicians, including Lord Janner, Lord Merlyn-Rees, Lord Hurd of Westwell and Lord Patten, who, as MPs, fought fierce prejudice in the Lords to enact the War Crimes legislation under which the trial was brought. It also provides a warning to today's tyrants, not least in the Balkans.

Doubtless, there will be the usual cries on behalf of the guilty men of the Nazi era. Why now? Is it not time to forgive and forget the horrors of Nazism for the sake of the new Europe? Will not "revenge" lead to renewed anti-Semitism? Already, these arguments are being assiduously deployed by the Deutsche Bank, Volkswagen and other enterprises which are lobbying to avoid their own obligations to the past, to compensate former slave labourers.

"Why now?" is simple. Throughout the Cold War, Western governments were unwilling to deal with Germany's Nazi past. The fall of the Berlin Wall not only toppled the Soviet empire, it removed the justifications that had been used for half a century to deny justice.

So many Nazis were let off the hook in the Cold War

It became the policy of the Allies in the late 1940s to turn a "blind eye to murder". Even while the Nuremberg trials were taking place there were pressures to focus on the Soviet Union as the enemy and to bring the war crimes prosecutions against Nazis to an end.

In the early 1950s, Bonn exacted a heavy price for supporting the West against Stalin. It secured the release from prison and the rehabilitation of business leaders such as Friedrich Flick and Alfried Krupp, as well as kid-glove treatment for those who had been convicted as leaders of the "Special Killing Squads" on the Eastern Front.

The CIA and MI6 saw no point in bringing Nazi murderers to trial: it was better to use them for operations against the Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe. Whether the recruitment of Nazis for Cold War duties was justified as "realpolitik" remains a matter of argument. But the fact that "de-Nazification" was abandoned so quickly had a devastating effect on the moral recovery of West Germany and the consequences are still with us. Not only did many murderers walk free, pro-Nazi historians retained their university chairs and tainted civil servants and bankers were restored to power. Opponents of the Hitler regime had to struggle for meagre compensation. In contrast, the widow of Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi leader who organised the Wansee conference which planned the Final Solution, received a large pension and lump sum.

Even Lord Shawcross, who as Sir Hartley Shawcross had been Britain's main prosecutor at Nuremberg, seemed affected by the Cold War mood. After the political decision had been taken (against his will) to curtail the war crimes trials, he became a friend — as he admits in his memoirs — of the notorious Hermann Abs. Convicted for war crimes in Yugoslavia, Abs had escaped prosecution by the Allies for his wartime activities at the helm of the Deutsche Bank. According to American official investigators, Deutsche Bank "performed the functions of a 'house bank' to I. G. Farben", which had a factory at Auschwitz. Lord Shawcross was later a strong opponent in the Lords of the War Crimes Bill.

The fact that Sawoniuk has been brought to trial — a careful act of justice, not revenge — will bring relief to many victims of the Nazis. In small measure, it compensates for the failures of the Cold War era. Sawoniuk will be one of the last perpetrators of the Holocaust to face a court of law. But there are other ways in which the unfinished issues from that terrible time can now be tackled. Politicians in Germany have long called for statutes of limitations drawing a final line under the Holocaust. But it is not possible by decree to end the nightmares of survivors and the distress passed on to their children.

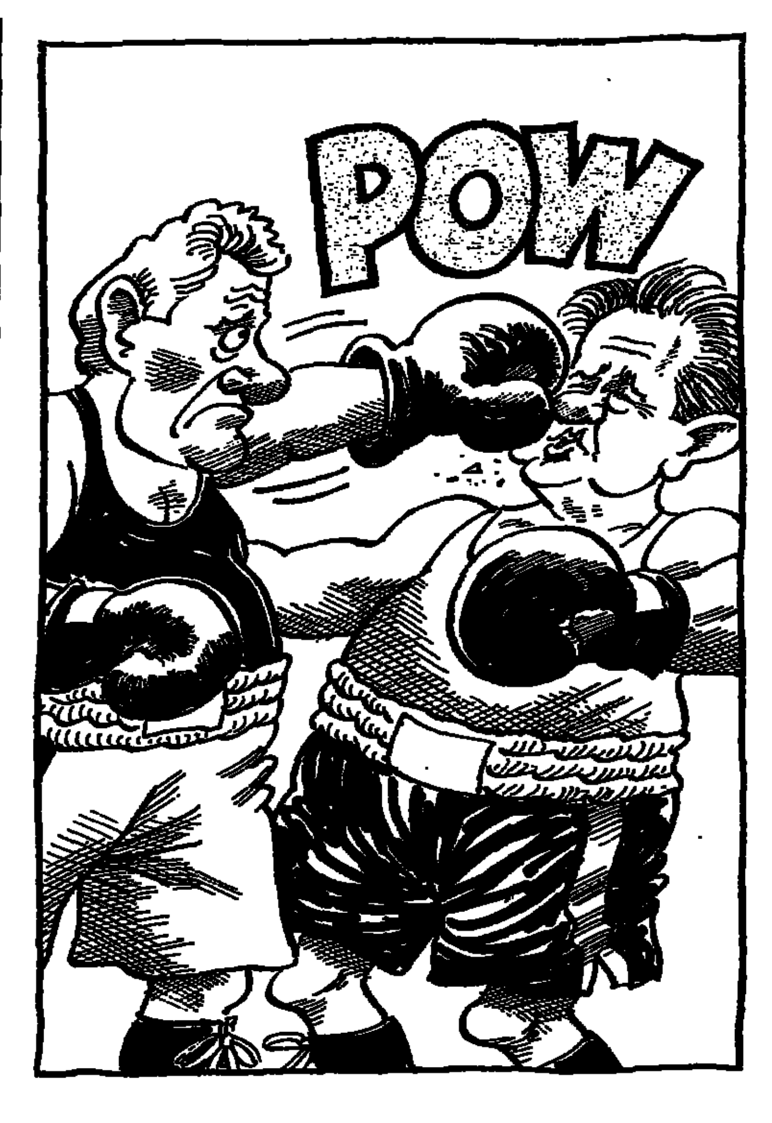
There are three antidotes to the poisonous legacy of the Nazi regime: first, education and truth about the Holocaust. Second, the legal obstacles, denials and excuses which continue to pour from the German authorities and its major corporations must end. The unsatisfactory compensation given under Germany's patchy restitution laws must be replaced by a willingness to meet the financial claims of surviving slave labourers and their families.

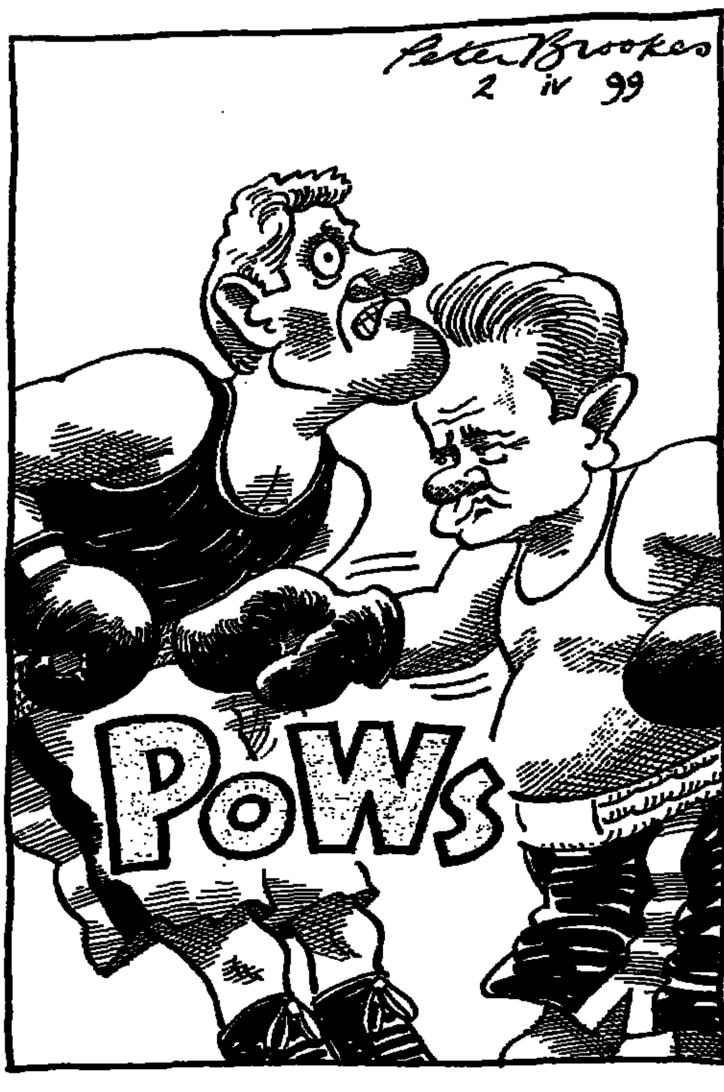
Third, survivors of the Holocaust are especially concerned to prevent, limit and punish the genocides of today. The ease with which leading Nazis were allowed to retain their freedom and money clearly indicated that crime does pay, provided it is on a sufficiently large scale. That must never happen again. The proposed permanent international war crimes court must be backed.

The unfolding tragedy in the Balkans only lends urgency to the need for justice which transcends borders. It may be facile to regard President Milosevic as a latter-day Hitler. There is a tendency to ignore the mischief of the countries which poured arms into Croatia in the early 1990s. The support given for anti-Slav movements by Germany is in line with its traditional geopolitics. But the provocations against Yugoslavia in no way excuse Serb brutalities. The atrocities of anti-Serb forces are equally inexcusable, though they have been on a smaller scale.

Those responsible for current mass murders must be brought to trial without regard to which side they are on. If this happens, human rights in Europe may come to be respected at last and the survivors of the Holocaust will have a measure of reassurance and hope.

comment@the-times.co.uk





For evil to triumph...

Nato's intervention in Kosovo is a necessary sacrifice for our nation's security, says **Rosemary Righter**

Ten years is a long time, double the duration of the Second World War. In the past ten years, the peace of southern Europe has been shattered, proud old cities pulverised, mosques and churches, villages and farmsteads emptied and burnt, millions made homeless, hundreds of thousands murdered, tortured or maimed and communities whose extensive inter-marriage declared their religious and cultural tolerance ripped apart.

Vukovar. Srebrenica. Mostar, whose dynamited Turkish bridge symbolised an assault on history itself. Sarajevo, which gloried in its crowded juxtaposition of Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, mosques and synagogues. These are the terrible markers on the long road to Pristina and Pec — and from there, perhaps, to Skopje and beyond? These places of devastation should be as important to us as those cities, trapped behind the Iron Curtain, that Churchill counted "from Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste on the Adriatic". They too represent an open wound cut through the heart of Europe, a gash that continues bloodily to be carved.

The touch-paper of the Balkan conflagration was lit in Kosovo, by the inflammatory rhetoric of one man, Slobodan Milosevic. Exactly ten years ago, Mr Milosevic imposed a state of emergency in Kosovo, arrested local politicians for "counter-revolutionary activities" and threw ethnic Albanians out of its schools and universities. Mr Milosevic, then a Communist apparatchik, saw in nationalist irredentism his road to political power. To stay in power, he still manipulates the politics of hatred, the war-drum that drowns out opposition to a regime that has been almost as disastrous for the Serbs as it has for the dozen other nationalities of the Yugoslavia that has violently been torn apart.

It must end in Kosovo; and Britain has both a duty and a vital interest in playing its part. Otherwise the blaze will spread south and east with hundreds of thousands more victims of war fleeing north and west. And this inescapably requires military force. Diplomatic containment has been tried, time and time again, and it has failed.

Literally dozens of peace conferences, itinerant mediators and coercive diplomacy have, in this decade, succeeded at best in conjuring a provisional, tattered peace out of the graveyard. Lords Carrington and Owen, Cyrus Vance, the formidable Richard Holbrooke and a whole parade of Russians have been given Mr Milosevic's word, on Croatia, then on Bosnia, now on Kosovo, only to see him tear up his pledges the moment the threat of coercion was lifted or its credibility in doubt.

Kosovo, where he promised last October to withdraw his troops to barracks, halt the massacres of civilians and negotiate a settlement that protected the rights of all, is only the latest victim of his familiar tactic of using talks to stay the West's hand while his forces create, through bloodshed, "facts on the ground". Nothing could be more bleakly clear than that this cycle can be ended only by *force majeur*, and only by Nato. Fire must be fought with fire.

Nato must not be seen to rattle sabres only to sheath them

The first words that politicians summon to explain why a country's troops are to be sent into action tend to set the tone of debate. Tony Blair chose to give "one simple reason", that was "... to prevent Milosevic from continuing to perpetuate his vile repression against innocent Albanian civilians". While it is fair to say that he has since tried hard to set out the strategic reasons why it was in Britain's national interest to be so heavily engaged, it was a mistake to open the case in quite this manner. The onslaught was under way, and Mr Milosevic could be guaranteed to intensify it in the hope that appalled Western publics would decide that Nato was making bad worse, and call a halt.

Bill Clinton was wiser to insist that Nato *had* to act "to defuse a powder-keg at the heart of Europe"; but he would have been wiser still to state that this would be a massive, long-term and dangerous venture, undertaken because the alternative, an uncontrollable regional war, was both too appalling and damaging to Nato to contemplate.

The subsequent political to-and-fro about whether this is a "humanitarian intervention", or a war to restore stability and the rule of law to the European continent, risks confusion. It is both. It is only by enforcing respect for international law, which has been systematically violated in Kosovo, that future humanitarian disasters can be averted and Europe made a safer place.

Mr Milosevic's political survival depends on proving that Nato is powerless to enforce the peace. He would be driving Albanians out of Kosovo with or without Nato airstrikes; if he has intensified the terror, it is for three reasons.

The first is a ruthless gamble on the wholly proper squeamishness of Western public opinion. The criminal ferocity of Serb forces has stilled any doubts about the legitimacy of Nato's action; but it has also, as he intends, intensified scepticism about the efficacy of airstrikes against highly mobile ground forces. That risk, for Nato, is at its greatest now.

The second reason is that, unlike many Western civilians, Mr Milosevic does not underestimate Nato. But he does calculate that he can destroy the Kosovan Albanian majority irreversibly, before his military machine is pulverised. The Yugoslav Army, alarmed at its vulnerability in the face of potential attack from Croatia, could then press him to negotiate. But it would be a Carthaginian peace.

The third impulse which drives Mr Milosevic's escalation is the aim of maximising the force of the shock waves, so as to produce civil conflict in Yugoslavia's neighbours. He would then have demonstrated that Nato had failed in its strategic objective of preventing a wider war. In this, refugees are a weapon.

His is a calculated megalomania. Nato must reckon with the possibility that he would not shrink from taking what is left of Yugoslavia over the precipice, so long as he took Nato too; but he expects the democracies to hesitate in horror, well before he confronts that choice.

Western leaders must respond both by increasing and adjusting the focus of the military campaign, as they are now doing, and by wresting back the political initiative. The political task has two dimensions. They must ensure that their own publics understand why, in addition to the humanitarian and moral imperatives, the dangers to European peace reach to their own front doors. They are so grave that Nato has no choice but to act in defence of their collective security.

Europe includes the Balkans. They divide the EU and border Nato. Another Balkan war would endanger the alliance's southern flank, a world of ethnic melting pots and disputed frontiers. The strains on Macedonia, which Greece recognised only reluctantly, are already apparent. Were it to implode, or if Mr Milosevic were to order troops to go to the defence of "fellow Serbs" there, other countries, including Bulgaria, Greece and possibly Turkey, could be drawn in.

The rest of Europe is watching this test of Nato's ability to project stability. Had Nato not acted, its credibility would now be in shreds. Should it fail to hold its course, not only would other dictators draw comfort; Nato could kiss goodbye to its vital role in ending Europe's divisions through effective crisis management. Russia's relations with Nato may have been truculent, but it has considered a tentative accommodation with the alliance to be necessary. A Nato retreat would make it think again. Were Nato to show that it rattles sabres only to sheath them, its Partnerships for Peace would lose much of their power to reassure the countries of the old Cold War no man's land.

Further afield, in Turkey as well as the Middle East, a perceived failure to stand by persecuted Muslims would stoke anti-Western feeling and bolster extremists.

The West's second political task is to offer the Balkan states, including Yugoslavia, a political Marshall Plan. This means not just, not even primarily, financial aid, but the prospect that if peace is followed by regional co-operation, they will be welcome in the European community. Mr Milosevic has plunged Nato into what may be a long and difficult campaign; equal resolution will be needed to build the peace. The foundations must be laid now.

rosemary.righter@the-times.co.uk

'If our democracy is to prove itself as sophisticated as our weaponry, public support will be best served by honest dialogue'

Vanora Bennett

"You can't say civilisation don't advance, for in every war they kill you a new way," the American humorist Will Rogers observed. He would be hard put to understand the way in which Nato politicians are explaining the latest conflict in Europe. Instead of sticking to today's facts — that Serbian brutalities in Kosovo threaten the Continent's stability — Nato is running through its favourite wartime tunes.

Not all the bloc's sceptical electorates are convinced of the need for military action: the politicians' response has been hyperbolic comparisons with past wars. They are presenting President Milosevic not just as the perpetrator of aggression now, but as all the villains of recent history rolled into one. By suggesting he is a blend of Hitler and Pol Pot, their rhetoric implies that the Allies must fight not just today's conflict but, again, the wars of the past. The case for intervention is not helped by exaggeration. Truth may be the first casualty of war, but a sense of proportion should not be next for the bodybag.

Hyperbole is sometimes understandable. The horror of the events unfolding in the Balkans is such that it can be genuinely hard for observers to find adequate words. Many of the 100,000 refugees who have fled Kosovo were stripped of papers by the Serbians marching them out. Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, called this "identity elimination". The comparison he made was from literature, seeing in it the same malign control over body and mind, present and past, life and death, exercised by the state in *1984*, George Orwell's fictional protest against totalitarianism. He called it "an Orwellian scenario of attempting to deprive a people and a culture of the sense of the past ... on which it is based."

Reports of civilians being forcibly marched to the Albanian border on Tuesday drew another emotional comparison from Mr Shea, this time with the forced evacuation of Phnom Penh by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. The implications are breathtaking: the Cambodian evacuation led to more than a million deaths over the following four years. But the comparison, while bound to raise the emotional temperature, was an honest attempt to communicate the enormity of an event that our day-to-day experience cannot encompass. The despair of a UN worker, comparing the numbers flooding out of Kosovo to the much bigger refugee crisis in Africa — "Nothing like this has ever happened in Europe. It is a nightmare, a total nightmare" — may be exaggerated, but it also comes from the same struggle for comprehension.

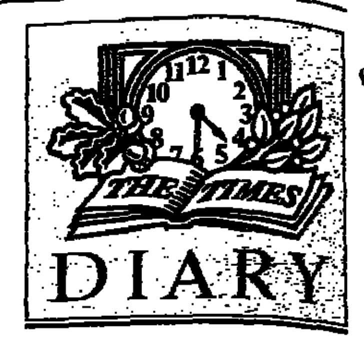
More disingenuous perhaps are explicit comparisons between what is happening in Kosovo and Hitler's Final Solution. Germany's Defence Minister, Rudolf Scharping, said on Wednesday that there was "serious evidence of concentration camps being erected" in the province. The evidence came from refugees and intercepted military communications, he said. Such camps may indeed exist, but Herr Scharping's comment, as Nato extended airstrikes on Yugoslavia, seemed timed mainly to stiffen domestic resolve. What German could reject the overwhelming moral imperative to save ethnic Albanians from meeting, at Mr Milosevic's hands, the same fate that the Nazis once imposed on Jews?

Perhaps more alarming is the ready use of the word "genocide". Losers in ethnic conflicts routinely cry genocide; third parties rarely do. In Rwanda, it was fully justified. But until the airstrikes began, genocide had been applied only with the greatest caution to anything but Hitler's policy of exterminating Europe's Jews. Yet those hearing the word being bandied about by Robin Cook and George Robertson could be forgiven for thinking the clock had turned back.

Genocide is not just another word for throwing people out of their homes or even murdering them. It means the deliberate "annihilation of a race". What little we know of Serbian actions in Kosovo suggests that Belgrade's determination to control the land is prompting Serbians to get rid of the ethnic Albanian majority by expelling or, in some cases, killing them. But, while the people of Kosovo are undoubtedly being terrorised, evidence has yet to emerge that Mr Milosevic is threatening Albanians with annihilation as a race.

The less sure Nato leaders are of their aims, and of the extent of public support, the more extreme their language. This might be intended to give an air of certainty to Nato's confused policy, but its effect can be only cloud the issues. Today's conflict is serious enough to be dealt with on its own terms. If our democracy is to prove itself as sophisticated as our weaponry, public support for a necessary military intervention will be best secured through sober, honest dialogue.

vanora.bennett@the-times.co.uk



Lost leader

THE widow of John Smith has joined other Labour grandees such as Lord Hattersley in boycotting a piece of virtual history. *If John Smith Had Lived*, being made for Channel 4 by that serial TV renegade, Roger Bolton, will try to fathom what Britain would now be like under Smith's leadership (Clause 4 intact, Margaret Beckett as Deputy PM and other scary scenarios). Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill has been kept informed but says "I don't want to discuss it".

Roy is more frank, saying that after he agreed to take part, Channel 4 moved the goalposts. "I thought I was being asked to present a tribute to John Smith, as did producers. But Channel 4 decided it should be a 'what if?' programme which would have been inappropriate. I am happy to criticise the Government, but not in the name of John Smith."

Channel 4 gives one of those spacey TV explanations: "Hattersley was involved at an early stage but these projects evolve."

THE self-propelling Lauren Booth, the PM's talented young sister-in-law, has a weakness for the mature man — in particular, Michael Parkinson (both below). "When he turned his crinkly smile on me I was reduced to a giggling wreck," she gushes. "I whimpered 'My God, you really are Parky.' It's that heady mix of Geoff Boycott and Richard Burton."




■ PIERCE BROSNAN can blame his unsteady feet in the Alps to an inability to ski well. But Chris, his stepson, can have no excuse.

The 25-year-old was outside the Met Bar last week demanding entrance. Brosnan Jr, who was banned from the nightclub Browns last October, was said to be "in gregarious mood". "He demanded to be let in," I am told. "There was a fracas and the doorman ended up with a bloody nose," I am told. Luckily for Chris, who did time for a drink-driving offence, the doorman did not go for the final solution. Chris confirms there was a row, but denies fisticuffs.

■ ALASTAIR CAMPBELL has had personally to reassure a Labour MP that he is not after his seat. Peter Pike, MP for Burnley, heard through the Westminster rumour-mill that he would be "palmed off with a peerage" to allow Campbell to run in the next general election (the wild claims started after a perceived increase in Campbell's political behaviour: talking to the Fabians, lunching in Shepherd's — that sort of thing).

"He told me not to worry," says Pike. "I think it is because he is a Burnley fan, but then so am I."

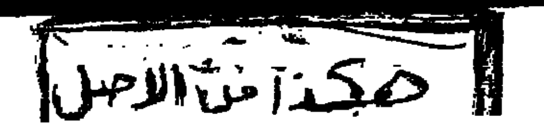


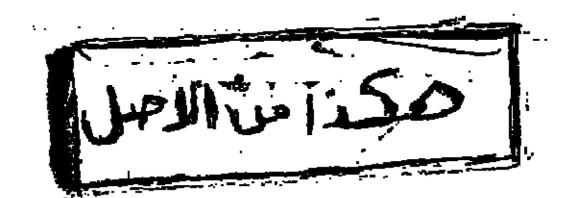
DAME Judi Dench is a hotter ticket on Broadway than Nicole Kidman. Advance sales for Amy's View, *the English actress's show in New York, are outselling Mrs Cruise's* The Blue Room. *Dench's Oscar success is helping to attract record-breaking audiences.*

■ CONFIRMATION of Geoffrey Boycott's Yorkshire-esque stewardship of his wallet is provided in a new biography, *Boycs: The True Story*, out next year. "When he was touring the Far East with an International XI there was a debate about what to do if someone won a man of the match prize," says author Leo McKinstry, who wrote the Labour study, *Fit to Govern*.

"All the players wanted to share the money except for a certain someone. Don Shepherd, the off-spinner, was so mad that he grabbed him by the scruff, pinned him to the wall, said 'you're wrong, Boycs', and threatened to do him permanent damage if he didn't agree." Geoffrey quickly agreed.

JASPER GERARD







A HOLDING AGREEMENT

Blair and Ahern outline the basis for an Ulster settlement

If peace could be delivered by presentation alone then Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern could provide Northern Ireland with decades of milk and honey. The two Prime Ministers conspired through manner to snatch a victory from what could otherwise be interpreted as at least a partial failure. Their declaration issued at Hillsborough Castle yesterday leaves numerous crucial questions still unanwered. It also relies on some extraordinary twists of language so that decommissioning is "not a precondition but is an obligation" wrapped within a "collective act of reconciliation". Their document is, though, more than a nimble attempt to disguise a deadlock. It could represent the first draft of a deal that will revive the Good Friday agreement.

The strength of the document is that it starkly acknowledges the inter-relationship between the IRA unloading its arsenal and the British Government initiating a procedure that should end with an Ulster executive exercising devolved powers. For most of the past 12 months Sinn Fein have sought to deny that there is any linkage between these two issues. Mr Blair and Mr Ahern have made it very clear that without decommissioned arms there will be no ministerial authority. The device they have chosen to achieve this allows for all sides to make preparations for an executive that will not exist in proper form until after the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning reports that the IRA have taken certain weapons out of service.

This statement is not only right in principle but the only realistic option in practice. Neither David Trimble nor peace itself could survive a lesser settlement. The carefully constructed compromise outlined in the Anglo-Irish compact offers much to the nationalist community. If Sinn Fein are seriously interested in the administration of Northern Ireland then they will now press their terrorist associates to accept this formula. Mr Blair has provided the republican movement with a breathing space in which to reach a fateful decision. Gerry Adams should make the most of it.

If the IRA does indeed engage in a "collective act of reconciliation" then Ulster Unionists should swallow their reservations and allow Mr Trimble to start forming his executive. The First Minister, who has been obliged to concede so much, has drawn the right line in the sand and deserves the full support of his colleagues. The Prime Minister has, in effect, returned to the promises made to Protestant voters during last year's referendum. Mr Ahern has made his firmest public statement so far in favour of imminent decommissioning. The detail of this declaration will make it difficult for Sinn Fein to claim at a later stage that there is no need for the IRA to disarm completely. These are all important developments that reflect well on Mr Trimble's determination. Unionists would be wise to recognise their significance.

The Prime Ministers have bought some time and are evidently confident that they can reach a successful conclusion. They have cited, with enthusiasm, the enhanced spirit of co-operation that apparently pervaded this particular set of negotiations. It will take more than a benign atmosphere and skilful public relations, however, to ensure that the IRA, or the loyalist terror organisations, actually fulfil their responsibilities. The Good Friday agreement was the triumph of sheer hope soothed by strategic ambiguity. The next ten days will provide the real evidence as to whether all parties to that text are really willing to work exclusively within it.

GOOD FRIDAY

'Making peace by the blood of his Cross . . .' (Colossians 1.20)

A Good Friday in a week of bombings, massacres and ethnic cleansing is a stark reminder that the Christian Gospel is no philosophical theory or mere symbolic story. It is a gospel of salvation that has at its heart the execution by barbaric torture of a particular man in a particular place at a particular point in time. What we remember on Good Friday is all of a piece with Kosovo today — and with the judicial murders and tortures of every century of human history. Golgotha, the place of the skull, where nails smashed through the wrists and feet of Jesus, the teacher from Nazareth in Galilee, can stand for the skulls of every genocide. Betrayal by friends, self-preserving denial, making sport with prisoners, the mockery of crowds, spectators drawn to the spectacle, the soldiers doing their duty and dicing for his clothes, a mother in agony and a knot of women helplessly looking on — it all happens time, and time, and time again.

Jesus was put to death in an occupied nation. His Crucifixion was the direct consequence of his challenge to the religious authorities of his day. It was no less a convenient way for a jittery Roman governor, nervous of trouble at Passover time, to get rid of a potential threat. The context of the Crucifixion of Jesus was a cocktail of religion and politics. Yet although this anchors it in history, we are compelled to look deeper to see why the Cross is the mark of Christian identity and the disclosure of what God is like.

The Gospels mark the ministry of Jesus with predictions of his passion. Sacrifice and suffering are at the very heart of who he is. As Dostoevsky affirmed, "Loving humility is a terrible force: it is the strongest of all things and there is nothing like it." Jesus proclaimed the coming of the kingdom, or rule, of God, a kingdom that was neither pursued nor established by the ways of violence and power. His kingdom, as He tells Pontius Pilate in St John's Gospel, is "not of this world". Only if it were would his servants fight.

And yet there is a fight, a fight of a cosmic order of which He is at the heart. The ministry of Jesus is seen as a wrestling with the powers of evil, and engagement with that engulfing darkness named as sin and death. When Judas goes out to betray Jesus, St John notes that it was night, and at the Crucifixion, the culmination of this struggle, the Gospels record that there was darkness over the land.

Jesus comes to do his Father's will, showing that will to be a love going to the uttermost, reaching out into the very darkness of hell, plumbing the depths of human sin, betrayal, abandonment and rejection. In a costly work of reconciliation he defeats the powers of darkness and establishes peace. That peace is the reconciliation of a sinful, fallen humanity, caught in a web of the worship of false gods, and driven by selfish desires, with the God who made men and women in the image of His love that they might reflect His likeness. It is called simple 'atonement', making one again. So peace is made "by the blood of His Cross".

Good Friday is "good" only because of Easter. The Passion story without the Resurrection would be vastly different. It is the hope kindled by the Easter encounters with the Risen Jesus that makes all things new. In the light of Easter we see that love's redeeming work was indeed done through the Cross, not apart from the Cross. There the fight was fought and the battle won. The resurrection is no "descent from the Cross postponed for thirty-six hours for reason of effect", it is the declaration of a victory won on the Cross, and in the darkness and silence of death, and even in the hell of utter apartness from God. From there Christ rose again in triumph.

And the Easter good news of the Cross and Resurrection has been found to bring hope and life in the most appalling situations, in refugee camps, on battlefields, and in the most abject human misery. On Good Friday and at Easter we know that even if we go down to hell God is there also, for Christ's blood does indeed "stream in the firmament", and in that blood, love going to the uttermost, we do indeed find our peace.

LOOSE DELIVERY

Wisden's editor has not proved his case on racism in cricket

The *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* has long been regarded, rightly, as the bible of English cricket. Matthew Engel the current, extremely talented, editor of this august tome has developed a flair for mixing controversial sermons with the conventional statistics. It would, of course, be an appalling outrage to suggest that this esteemed national institution could be deliberately seeking publicity. Let it instead be said that Mr Engel might have acquired an attention maximisation strategy.

Most of Mr Engel's bouncers hit the right target. In the *Notes by the Editor* published yesterday he attacks the International Cricket Council for the miserable manner in which it has acted, or more accurately failed to act, on the match-fixing scandal involving the Australian players Shane Warne and Mark Waugh. This onslaught is entirely legitimate. In his

Mr Engel relies more on anecdotes than solid information. In substantive terms the examples of what he describes as "informal segregation" in Essex and Yorkshire appear to consist of a sociology essay from the University of East London and the failure of the *Yorkshire Post* to report results fully from Pakistani-dominated local league matches. His observation that village teams fail to "welcome outsiders into the club's clannish atmosphere" is doubtless true but does not prove racism.

Sport cannot exist separately from a wider society. If there is prejudice in the public house then some of it will also occur in the pavilion. But on the whole British sport has been an enormously positive force for social integration. The comradeship borne of competition and the collective desire for victory are powerful forces for multi-racial harmony. Brian Lara has been universally admired this week for his

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Serb history of stout resistance

From Mr Gordon Burrett

Sir, There is no prospect of stopping ethnic cleansing in Kosovo by negotiation alone. The Serbs will continue their cruel acts until they decide it is in their interests to stop.

The use of force is much more difficult, may well go wrong and is certain to be denounced by those who have no better alternative to offer. Force, when realistic negotiation has demonstrably failed, may not succeed, but it has a reasonable hope of doing so. The choice between force and everlasting negotiation depends on how much you really want to stop the atrocities in Kosovo.

We should be thankful that the Americans are prepared to act with determination in this crisis. We should be thankful, too, for Nato unity. Finally, we should congratulate our own Government on having taken the right decision and sticking to it.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON BURRETT,
14 Church Road,
Claygate, Surrey KT10 0JP.
April 1.

From Mr George Tintor

Sir, You contend that "Macedonia has done much to integrate its Albanian minority" (leading article, March 31). Yet the Albanians in Macedonia have fewer rights than those offered by Serbia to its Albanian minority.

The Albanians in Kosovo have had the same rights as every other ethnic group in Serbia, including the large Hungarian community in Vojvodina. Since 1989, however, when certain elements of Tito's 1974 Yugoslav Constitution were revoked, the Albanians themselves chose not to exercise their rights, preferring instead to wail about "Serb repression".

The tragic situation in Kosovo today is a consequence of the Albanians' absolute refusal to live in anything but an ethnically pure Greater Albania. The term "ethnic cleansing" was first used in Kosovo during the 1970s to describe the expulsion of Serbs from their homes by Albanians.

Ethnic Albanian extremists in Kosovo are responsible for the ongoing conflict. During the past year, the KLA has probably kidnapped and murdered more civilians than the Serbs. Only when Albanian extremism is defeated will Kosovo's inhabitants — Albanians, Serbs and others — be able to live in peace in a multi-ethnic country.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE TINTOR,
122 Leadenhall Street, EC3V 4QH.
March 31.

From Mr Jeremy Burnham

Sir, Ms Rosalie Huzzard (letter, March 31) suggests that we should have negotiated with Milosevic through the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Elsewhere in the same issue, your correspondent Janine di Giovanni reports allegations that Kosovans formerly working for the OSCE are being rounded up and shot by Serbian militias.

So much for jaw-jaw.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BURNHAM,
80a Woodland Rise, N10 3UJ.
March 31.

From Mr Michael Crow

Sir, Some make much of the Serbian suffering at the hands of the Nazis (letters, March 25 and 29); others say that the Serbs have a history of strong resistance to aggression. These issues are then used as some sort of argument against Nato airstrikes. This seems to me to be rather selective.

Exactly how much suffering does one have to endure before receiving this waiver from the requirement to behave in a civilised manner? Do the Serbs have *carte blanche* to murder and torture their neighbours just because a different set of neighbours mistreated their parents and more distant ancestors?

Those who hope for sympathy for the Serbs for their history are deluding themselves. Any such sympathy has been forfeited by the events of the past few years.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
MICHAEL CROW,
13 Sleepy Hollow Drive,
Hamilton Parish,
CR02 Bermuda.
mikecrow@northrock.bm
April 1.

From James Tulloch

Sir, The problems in Kosovo date back to the battle of that name in 1389 (report, "Myths lie at the root of Serbia's psyche", March 25).

The area has since been the thorn in the side of Europe, its conflict triggering the Great War in 1914. Whether they are called the Black Hand or the KLA, ethnic Albanians want only autonomy. We want to return the Kosovo Albanians to Kosovo to live in peace there with the Serbs with whom they have been fighting for over half a millennium.

Sweet dreams.

Need for new homes questioned

From Lord Ezra

Sir, The recent announcement by Mr John Prescott (report, March 30; leading article, "Repent and revise", March 31) that the estimated need for new homes was now reduced to 3.8 million by 2021 is a step in the right direction. The previous target of 4.4 million by 2016 was a matter of major controversy (leading article, "Without foundation", March 27).

There remains the issue of where the new homes are to be built and there are still doubts about the extent to which this large (if now reduced) accretion to the housing stock is really necessary.

The Government has made it clear that it wishes the larger part of these new dwellings to be built in brownfield rather than in greenfield sites and has issued a Planning Policy Guidance Note (report, March 23), on which there is a consultation period. This is intended to help by setting new priorities for local authorities. There is, however, one aspect of the matter which has not been sufficiently covered: that is the large proportion of the existing housing stock which is below standard.

The English House Condition Survey for 1996, which is the latest to be published, shows that something like 3 million out of the 20 million dwellings in England are in a state of serious disrepair — and no doubt the situation is similar in Scotland and Wales. A determined effort to bring these dwellings up to standard would surely reduce the need for such a large quantity of newly-built homes.

Furthermore, there are nearly a million unoccupied dwellings. Bringing the bulk of these back into use would also diminish the need for new building.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK EZRA
(President, National Home Improvement Council),
House of Lords.
March 31.

From Mr Jim Lancaster

Sir, The Planning Minister, Mr Richard Caborn, has announced that the Government will be strengthening the national Planning Policy Guidelines (PPGs) to encourage local authorities to favour brownfield as opposed to greenfield development.

This is a noble sentiment, but the PPGs are only guidelines. The Government appears to make no attempt to see that they are being followed, let alone enforced. Moreover, local authorities know very well that the Secretary of State for the Environment will only review an application under exceptional circumstances. In my experience local authorities can ignore both their own development plans and the national guidelines.

Mr Caborn's speech to the House on March 11, as reported in *Hansard*, was a robust argument for the Government's planning policies. But in his closing remarks he could only say that "I hope that planning authorities take account of what I have said this evening". A triumph of hope over experience?

Yours faithfully,
JIM LANCASTER,
Courtyard House, Fairbank,
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria LA6 2BD.
jimlyd@dnet.co.uk
March 30.

Computer chaos

From Professor Harold Thimbleby

Sir, According to Jack Straw, the Home Office's most important management task is to fix the failed computer project, costing £77 million and 14 months behind schedule, set up to speed immigration and asylum decisions (report, "Thousands caught in travel paper chaos", March 24).

This isn't the first time "chaos" has been caused by such computer failure. The London Ambulance Service's computerised call-out system was an obvious example (reports, October and November 1992; letters, November 2, 1992).

Less obvious are the myriad of products that are difficult to use. That Britain throws away millions of tons of computers per year proves that they are failing to live up to their promised expectations. The millennium bug is another damning sign of this widespread mess; indeed, you report that the Home Office system is not year-2000 compliant.

In my view, the main reason why these fiascos arise is that salesmen agree to sell and managers agree to buy a miracle product at a miracle price. The salesmen go back with requirements to build an impossible system, and delays and failures follow with dreadful inevitability.

One should ask where in these processes are the qualified engineers? Almost none of those involved are members of professional organisations. Virtually nobody involved is qualified to do what they promise, or even to promise something sensible in the first place.

In nine months we shall all have the hindsight to wonder why we never required minimum qualifications for, for example, programmers. Let us hope that awareness of the need for professional qualifications will very rapidly become common sense.

When — and only when — that happens will it really be news to read about millions of pounds wasted on computers.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD THIMBLEBY,
School of Computing Science,
Middlesex University,
Bounds Green Road, N11 2NQ.
harold@mdx.ac.uk
March 25.

The school run

From Dr Mary Sissons Joshi

Sir, May I comment on your article, "Pace yourself on the school run. Taking children to school by car is making them fat and even mentally ill" (Weekend, March 20)?

The use of the car has grown in many areas, including the journey to work, out-of-town shopping, general leisure trips and the school run. However, it is the school run which seems continually to attract criticism as if it were the least necessary car journey.

It is also often argued that constantly chaperoning children is creating a generation of children who are excessively fearful of strangers.

Research conducted by Morag MacLean, Wakefield Carter and myself with 93 seven to twelve-year-olds (published on March 29 in *The British Journal of Developmental Psychology*) suggests that children who are driven to school or accompanied on foot are no more worried about stranger danger than are unaccompanied children. Furthermore, children as a group are considerably less anxious about stranger danger than are their parents.

While it is easy to make assertions, it is much harder to establish the facts about causal relationships in this area. Those who wish to encourage children to walk to school are right to emphasise the gains for them (eg, more exercise) and for the rest of us (eg, less traffic congestion), but they should not link their case to psychological effects for which I have seen no sound evidence.

Yours faithfully,
MARY SISSONS JOSHI,
Psychology Department,
Oxford Brookes University,
Gipsy Lane Campus,
Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP.
msissons-joshi@brookes.ac.uk
March 22.

Thatcher and Pinochet

From Mr Javier Couso

Sir, Baroness Thatcher's support of former dictator Augusto Pinochet (report, March 27) is appalling. To express admiration for someone whose rule included torture, political assassination and exile because Britain benefited from Chile's support in 1982 surely reduces moral principles to sheer self-interest.

In a world in which military actions are often justified on humanitarian grounds, it seems contradictory to justify crimes against humanity when they are performed by governments that in the past chose to help you in a war against a third nation.

Baroness Thatcher's assertion that Pinochet is a democrat is unacceptable. The fact that Chile's democratic tradition made it impossible for Pinochet to manipulate a plebiscite in which he was defeated does not make him a democrat.

Yours faithfully,
JAVIER COUSO
(Constitutional Adviser to
Chilean Finance Minister, 1990-94),
3020 Smyth Road, Apartment 10-G,
Berkeley, Ca 94720.
couso@uclink4.berkeley.edu

Science in Russia

From Professor Sir Graham Hills

Sir, Certainly, as Sir Arnold Wolfendale points out (letter, March 30), most of Russia's research institutes are in dire straits. The same is true for much of Eastern Europe.

Most of these research institutes were of an unmanageable size. Many employed several thousand scientists at the doctoral level, the justification of which was hard to fathom. All research is a loss leader, but the conspicuous expenditure on research in the Soviet Union, only possible in a command economy, could hardly be justified on a rational basis.

Russia has never been short of science and scientists but, like Britain, it is desperately short of technology and technologists. These are the only source of the wealth required to be ploughed back into industry if the country is ever to recover.

Regrettably, governments and government-funded institutes are good at growing scientists but hopeless at growing technologists. Until we all follow the examples of the US, Germany and others, which systematically cultivate technology and technologists, we, and particularly Russia, will continue to flounder.

Rethink on nature of God and Satan

From Father Aidan Baker

Sir, The recent attribution of femininity to God (letters, January 16 and 23) may lead us to consider whether there ought to be a similar attribution to another spirit — Satan.

For centuries the Devil has been unambiguously identified as male . . . the Father of Lies, the Prince of Darkness, His Satanic Majesty, etc. Should we see in this unfair discrimination over countless years? Is it only males that can tempt, do evil, work deeds of darkness?

As Easter approaches — the triumph of Christ over Satan — perhaps we should consider another aspect of the many-sided spirit of darkness, or would this be unchivalrous male chauvinism?

Yours sincerely,
AIDAN BAKER,
St Joseph's Retreat,
Highgate Hill, N19 5NE.
April 1.

Good Friday's meaning

From Mrs Peter Thistlethwayte

Sir, "Oh Mum! Hot Cross Bun Day!" I heard the young girl say as she tugged at her mother's sleeve whilst passing the bakery display. At least she was better informed than the girl who was said to have asked the jeweller for a silver cross with a little man on it, but neither understood the meaning of Good Friday.

Now that these delicious spiced buns seem to be sold all the year perhaps, to mark the significance, they could be decorated with a cross for Good Friday only.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH THISTLETHWAYTE,
East Donyland Hall, Rowhedge,
Nr Colchester, Essex CO5 7JE.
April 1.

Women priests

From Mr Andrew Waude

Sir, Is it not about time that people on both sides of the ordination of women debate (letters, March 4, 9, 12, 13, 22 and 29) stopped their bickering?

Some of us "on the ground" are trying to get on with the job of showing the Gospel of the Risen Christ to the people of our parishes. I believe the prolonged arguments only undermine the Gospel and the work we are trying to do. Regardless of our views on women priests in the Church of England, we are committed to the care of the people of God in this country — this should be uppermost in our minds.

If we are not careful internal politics will swamp our pastoral and evangelical duties.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WAUDE
(Pastoral Assistant, Parish of
the Resurrection, Leicester;
Member, General Synod),
Saint Matthew's House,
Kamloops Crescent,
Leicester LE1 2HX.

From Mr Frank Brean

Sir, Could I please plead that any possible movement towards rescission of the Act of Synod not be considered until after July 3, when my daughter with six of her colleagues will be ordained in Portsmouth Cathedral after three years' intensive studies.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK BREAN,
105 Bushey Hill Road, SE5 8QQ.
March 29.

Free for all

From the Director of the National Portrait Gallery

Sir, I was interested to read (report, March 30) that the National Portrait Gallery was going to be free for children. It has been free for everyone, adults and children alike, for nearly all of its history apart from a brief period in the 1870s when it cost 6d on three days a week, and again in 1974 when admission charges led to a disastrous drop in visitor numbers.

My Trustees remain convinced that free entry is the best way to ensure democratic access to the collection, subject to an appropriate level of public funding.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SAUMAREZ SMITH,
Director, National Portrait Gallery,
St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE.
March 30.

Wedding gifts

From Mr Neil Kennedy

Sir, At my only experience of an Irish wedding, I gave the happy couple a rather expensive set of glassware from Thos. Goode (letters, March 18, 24 and 30).

The wedding started half an hour late. The bridegroom did not appear in any of the wedding photographs, as he was in the bar (with me); and the reception lasted three days, covering three different towns.

Six months later I received a letter thanking me for the charming coffee mugs.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 1: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning arrived at Bristol Temple Meads Station and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr Jay Tidmarsh).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to Bristol Cathedral and were received by the Bishop of Bristol (the Right Reverend Barry Rogerson) and the Dean of Bristol (the Very Reverend Robert Grimley).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Maundy Service at which Her Majesty distributed the Royal Maundy.

The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch (Lord High Almoner) and the Reverend William Booth (Sub Almoner) were present.

The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard were on duty.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness afterwards attended a Reception with members of the Cathedral and Diocesan Staff at the Chapter House.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh then presented the "Building a Better Bristol" Award to the Chairman of the Harbourside Project (Mr Nicholas Hood) before attending a Luncheon given by the Lord Mayor and the President of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce (Mr Douglas Claisse) at the Mansion House.

The Queen this afternoon visited the Royal West of England Academy and was received by the President (Mr Peter Thursby).

Her Majesty met artists and members of the Academy as well as Children from a local primary school.

The Queen later joined The Duke of Edinburgh at Cameron Balloons and was received by the Managing Director (Mr Don Cameron). His Royal Highness toured the factory and both Her Majesty and His Royal Highness met Mr Brian Jones and M Bertrand Piccard who circumnavigated the world in the balloon, Breitling Orbiter 3.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 1: The Duke of York this morning visited the East Riding of Yorkshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr Richard Marriott).

His Royal Highness later attended a church service at Holy Trinity Church, Kingston upon Hull.

Afterwards, The Duke of York visited Orchard Park and Hull North Enterprises.

This afternoon His Royal Highness visited the Anlaby Community Care Centre.

The Duke of York later visited West Yorkshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr John Lyles).

His Royal Highness afterwards presented eight Duke of York Charter Awards.

Later, The Duke of York watched a demonstration of Futebol de Salao.

Today's royal engagement

The Duke of Kent, president, the Royal Choral Society, will attend a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, Albert Hall, London.

Birthdays today

Good Friday

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, 56; Sir Jack Brabham, former racing driver, 73; Sir Graham Bright, former MP, 57; Mr Linford Christie, athlete, 39; Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Dhenin, 81; Captain Sir Richard Dobbs, former Lord-Lieutenant of County Antrim, 80; Sir Christopher France, civil servant, 65; Miss Catherine Gaskin, author, 70; Mr Raymond Gubbay, concert promoter, 53; Sir Alec Guinness, CH, actor, 85; Viscount Hambleden, 69; Mr Barry Hills, racehorse trainer, 62; Sir Ian Hunter, impresario, 80; Miss Penelope Keith, actress, 59; Sir Peter Middleton, deputy chairman, Barclays Bank, 65; the Marquess of Northampton, 53; Major-General C.J. Popham, 72; Mr A.C. Pudephatt, former general secretary, Liberty, 49; Mr M.G. Rizzello, sculptor and coin designer, 73; Sir Denis Rooke, OM, FRS, former chairman, British Gas, 75; Mr Teddy Sheringham, footballer, 32; Lord Skelmersdale, 54; Miss Sue Townsend, writer, 53; Mr Denis Tuohy, broadcaster, 62; Professor Felix Weinberg, FRS, 71.

Appointment

Stephen Nash to be Ambassador to Latvia in July in succession to Mr Nicholas Jarrold who is moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for April was won with bond number 82SS 142886. The winner lives in Cheshire and has a bond holding of £5,000.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charlemagne, King of the Franks and Holy Roman Emperor 801-14, Aix-la-Chapelle, 747; Giovanni Casanova, adventurer, Venice, 1725; Catharine Macaulay, historian, Wye, Kent, 1731; Hans Christian Andersen, storyteller, Odense, Denmark, 1805; William Holman Hunt, painter, member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, London, 1827; Emile Zola, novelist and critic, Paris, 1840; Sergei Rachmaninov, composer and pianist, Oneg, Russia, 1873; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculptor, Bruhl, Germany, 1891; Marvin Gaye, singer, Washington DC, 1939.

DEATHS: Honoré Mirabeau, politician and orator, Paris, 1791; Richard Cobden, "The Apostle of Free Trade", London, 1865; Samuel Morse, painter and inventor of the telegraphic code bearing his name, New York, 1872; C.S. Forester, novelist, Fullerton, California, 1966; Georges Pompidou, President of France 1969-74, Paris, 1974.

The US mint was established in Philadelphia, 1792.

The first Italian parliament met in Turin, 1860.

The Spanish Civil War officially ended, 1939.

Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, 1982.

Legal retirement

Judge Clive Tayler, QC, has retired from the Midland and Oxford Circuit Bench.



RICHARD CANNON

Some spectacular examples of the house plant *Hippeastrum*, or amaryllis, which are on show at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, this week. A *Hippeastrum Celebration* is being held until the end of April. The *Hippeastrum*, a native of South America, produces flowers up to 10in diameter

Your chance to get dug in this year

By Norman Hammond
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

UNPRECEDENTED opportunities to delve into Britain's past are being offered this summer. Although the number of research digs accepting volunteers has declined, more field schools and training excavations than ever are being run for the young and energetic of all ages.

Most of them are organised by universities, and directed by academic professional archaeologists, but anybody over the age of 16 can apply: the Council for British Archaeology publishes a *Briefing* listing the projects seeking people, and the council's Young Archaeologists' Club also organises activities for those under 16.

Among nearly 20 training digs on offer between the end of May and the end of September are the Roman Villa at Bignor in West Sussex, the Roman palace at Fishbourne only a few miles away, and the Roman city of *Calleva* at Silchester near Reading.

Smaller settlements in the Romano-British countryside include Piddington near Northampton, and three sites in Wales, Castell Henllys in Pembrokeshire, New Pieces in Powys and Ardileen near Welshpool.

Prehistoric sites are rare this year, but Billtown on the Isle of Man includes Neolithic and Bronze Age remains, and in Upper Wharfedale in North Yorkshire a multi-period upland landscape is being studied. The Saxons will be dug up — literally, since a burial ground is included — at Sedgeford in Norfolk, and "King" Edward Balliol's castle (or palace) will be investigated at Botel Bailey in Kircudbright. Medieval and later structures under excavation will include the mysterious earthen mound of Clay Hill in East Sussex, thought to have been an early Norman castle or archiepiscopal hunting lodge, the manor house at Heckfield in Hampshire, and medieval to 17th-century buildings in Bagshot, Surrey. Deserted villages in Scotland include Easter Raitts at Kingussie and the spectacular Mar Lodge Estate at Braemar.

One of the more unusual opportunities is the final season of the long-running study of the terraced gardens of Dartington Hall in Devon, where the emerging subdiscipline of garden archaeology is being fine-tuned.

Fees for most of the training programmes are modest, with most accommodation consisting of tents at the site itself; the varied opportunities to sample local food and drink, as well as the often stunning scenery around the digs, more than make up for a week or two of primitive living; and all aspects of the experience bring us closer to our ancestors.

Contact: Council for British Archaeology, 111 Walmgate, York YO1 9WA; archaeology@compuserve.com.

LINKS

WEBSITES:
http://www.britarch.ac.uk:
http://www.compulink.co.uk/~archaeology/digs.htm.
European digs:
http://archeonet.cilea.it/archeosite.
http://www.britarch.ac.uk/forum/camps.html:
http://www.britarch.ac.uk/archabroad (also at arch.abroad@ucl.ac.uk).

RAF College Cranwell

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, Air Officer Commanding in Chief Strike Command and Commander Allied Air Forces Northwestern Europe, was the reviewing officer at the Graduation yesterday of 94 officers of No 176 Initial Officer Training Course and 16 officers of No 266 Specialist Entrant and Re-entrant course from RAF College Cranwell.

Prizewinners of No 176 Initial Officer Training Course

The Sword of Merit
Awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has demonstrated outstanding ability, leadership and other officer qualities and potential for further development: Officer Cadet J R Butcher

The Hennessy Trophy and Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize
Awarded to the RAF cadet who during Initial Officer Training, has proved to be the best all-round cadet other than the Sword of Merit winner: Officer Cadet L T Madden

The British Aircraft Corporation Trophy
Awarded to the RAF or Foreign and Commonwealth cadet who has attained the highest marks for professional studies on the course: Student Officer B C R Russell BEng

The Group Captain Williams' Memorial Trophy
Awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has shown the greatest improvement: Student Officer E C Greenwood BSc

The Longcroft Trophy
Awarded to the cadet who has contributed most to sport during Initial Officer Training: Officer Cadet A Pluckrose

Prizewinner of No 266 Specialist Entrant and Re-Entrant Course

The Daedalus Trophy
Awarded to the student who, during training on the Specialist Entrant and Re-Entrant Course, has proved to be the best all-round cadet: Officer Cadet P K Richardson

Graduating Officers of No 176 Initial Officer Training Course

General Duties Branch - Pilot
Flying Officers D J Clarke BSc, S G Davies MEng BA, A M Garbutt BSc, D J Laisney BSc, A J Rogers BSc, P C Turner, A J Wilkinson MEng, M J Wright BEng; Pilot Officers R Aboboto BSc, G J Burdett BA, D M Caton BSc, K N Clark BA, S R Dachtler BSc, N J De Candole BA, J Fowler BA, S B Hulme BSc, T Kemp MEng BA, B L Laidlaw BSc, P J Lee BEng, P D McLamon BSc, O M Padbury BSc, R A Platt BEng, L A Roberts BA, T P Smith BEng, C G Talbot BSc, K Whyman BA, P A Winnister BSc (Econ); Acting Pilot Officers J R Butcher, J L Dodsworth, A Footitt; P A Roberts.

General Duties Branch - Navigator
Flying Officers G E Cooper BSc, D J Fowler BSc, L T Madden, C Morton, B C R Russell BEng; Pilot Officers H J Dawson BSc; J Eayrs BSc, J M Howard BEng, S A Lee BA, I McCabe MEng, S A Mills BA; N C Whitehead MEng; Acting Pilot Officers A J Luker, T G A McAuley.

General Duties Branch Air Loadmaster
Flying Officer M A Vickery.

Operations Support Branch - Air Traffic Control
Flying Officers E C Greenwood BSc, S M Harvey; Pilot Officers E Coupar BA; M A Johnson BA, S M Ryan-Goldstraw BA

Operations Support Branch - Fighter Control
Flying Officers S D England, K L Hargreaves BEng, J R Howard, G A Posnett; Pilot Officer C J Kemeny BSc

Operations Support Branch - Intelligence
Flying Officer J H Joisce LLB.

Operations Support Branch - Regiment
Flying Officer M K L Mankowski BSc; Pilot Officers M K Carter BEd, R D Glendinning BA, T A Weeden BA; Acting Pilot Officer P Dawson.

Engineer Branch
Flight Lieutenants J Dixon BEng, M Harding BEng, P Pearce BEng AMIEE, R D Ponting BEng; Flying Officers N A Bevan, J E Cox, G D Dark, S W Edmondson BA, M C Lowe MEng BA, R K Plumley BEng, J R Rushton, M S Tillyard BEng, A N Wood BEng; Pilot Officers I D Andrews BEng, R D J Gates BEng, N E S Price MEng, E R Taylor BEng.

Supply Branch
Flying Officer S M Moore BSc; Pilot Officer V C J Hall LLB

Administrative Branch - Secretarial
Flying Officers J M Brocklebank BSc, N Clark, M D Leeming, S Scott BA; Pilot Officer V J K Short BA PGCE; Acting Pilot Officers D Munslow, L A Wells.

Administrative Branch - Training
Flight Lieutenant N M Craig BEd; Flying Officer E P Setters BA; Pilot Officers O H Crossby BSc PGCE, A Sinclair.

Administrative Branch - Physical Education
Flying Officer A Pluckrose.

Medical Secretarial Branch
Flying Officer S A Ford.

Graduating Officers of No 266 Specialist Entrant and Re-entrant Course

General Duties Branch - Pilot
Flying Officers M A Daffey, B J Reilly BSc, P K Richardson, C M Smith, P A Willson.

Operations Support Branch - Fighter Control
Flight Lieutenant S J Kotlarchuk.

Operations Support Branch - Regiment
Flight Lieutenant A J M MacIntyre.

Administrative Branch - Secretarial
Flight Lieutenant M A Finneran.

Supply Branch
Flight Lieutenant T E Alford.

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service
Flight Lieutenants A Lewis, D C McCann EN(G) RN, P A Quick RGN RSCN RMN DipHE, I Rider RN DipHE; Flying Officers M J Harris BA DipAH RN, L M Ryder RN DipHE.

Medical Technical Branch
Flight Lieutenant I J Start BEM FIBMS.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.R. Allen and Miss H.R. Wallis
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Allen, of Langley, Berkshire, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Wallis, of Greenford, Middlesex.

Mr A.J. Bertolotti and Miss S.E. Duly
The engagement is announced between Alexander, youngest son of the late Mr R. Bertolotti and of Mrs Bertolotti, of Hatch End, Middlesex, and Sarah, daughter of Mr K. Duly, of Bethlehem, Connecticut, and Mrs M. Duly, of Halton, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.J. Bowden and Miss S.M.B. Morris
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr John Bowden, of Walton-on-Thames, and Mrs Lynn Ransome, of Ascot, and Siân, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Morris, of Harrow.

Mr M.G. Bristow and Miss L.M. Burke
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr Geoff Bristow and Mrs Mary Berger, of Oxford, and Laura, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Burke, of Bishopstone, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr P. Fidoe and Miss J.E. Christie
The engagement is announced between Peter, second son of Mr and Mrs A. Fidoe, of Worcester, and Joanne, first daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Christie, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.L. Hardie and Miss B.J. Swaab
The engagement is announced between Ross, son of Mrs Caroline Hanbury-Bateman, of Leap, Co Cork, and the late Mr Michael Hardie, and Beth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Swaab, of Condover, Shropshire.

Captain R.C. Sergeant and Miss S.J. Chapman
The engagement is announced between Robin Charles Sergeant, Coldstream Guards, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Martin Sergeant, of Kennington, Oxfordshire, and Sarah Jane, eldest daughter of the late Dr Hugh Chapman and of Mrs David Lindsay, of Pimlico, London.

Mr H.D.E. Varney and Miss C.G. Gemin
The engagement is announced between Hugo, second son of Mr Andrew Varney, of Port Eynon, Gower, and Mrs Imogen Varney, of Rhossili, Gower, and Coelia, daughter of Mr Yves Gemin and Mrs Monette Maquiaba, of Ste Rose, Guadeloupe, French West Indies.

Mr C.J.N. Williams and Miss L.A. Kell
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of the late Mr and Mrs John Williams, of Alrewas, and Lizette, younger daughter of Mr Charles Kell, of Horton, Northamptonshire, and Mrs Mary Kell, of Carlton, Warwickshire.

Church news

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Charles Jefferson, Vicar, Elworth and Warmingham (Chester) to retire July 31.

The Rev Tom Kenny, Vicar, Stockton Heath (Chester) retired January 31.

Canon David Pitcher, Rector, Woodbridge St Mary, and Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to retire June 30.

Canon Richard Price, Rector, Nantwich (Chester) to retire May 31.

The Rev Barry Trotter, Vicar, Henbury (Bristol) to retire June 30.

Corrections

The Rev Malcolm Foy, Director of Education (Bradford): has been appointed Assistant Curate (temporary), Otley (same diocese).

The Rev Barbara Way has been Local Ministry Adviser (Canterbury for more than a year and the the Rev Bill Hopkinson is still the Director of the Board of Ministry and Training (Canterbury) and has been since 1994.

Legal appointments

Mr Guy Nicholas Otten has been appointed part-time Chairman of the Mental Health Review Tribunal for the Trent and Northern and Yorkshire region and Mr John Wright has been appointed to the West Midlands and North West region, both from May 1.

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. L. BOYLE

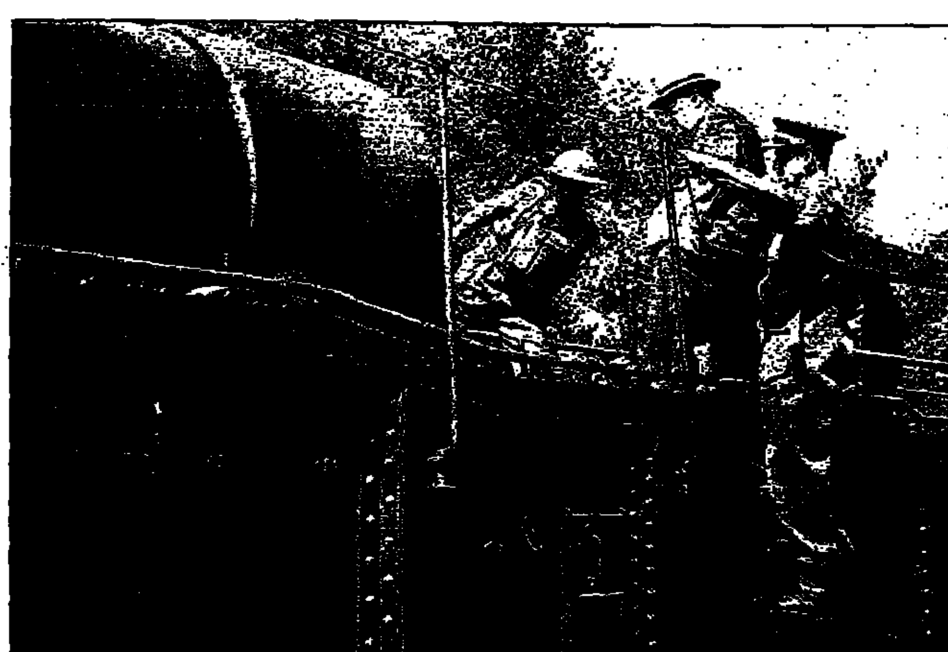
Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Boyle, OBE, Secretary of the Fauna Preservation Society, 1950-63, died on March 21 aged 100. He was born on March 9, 1899.

After a thirty year career as a Gunner in the Army, Leofric Boyle, as he was known to family and friends, devoted himself to wildlife conservation — a passion that had its origins in his Army career. Long voyages in troopships in the days before soldiers were lifted from place to place by air were ideal for watching ocean birds. Service in India, with its rich fauna, stimulated a natural interest in animals of all sorts.

In the 1950s and 1960s Boyle was active in many campaigns to preserve wildlife. In the late 1950s he played a major role in Operation Noah, set up to try to save the thousands of animals endangered by the flooding caused by the construction of the Kariba Dam in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

Another notable campaign was the preservation of the rare Arabian oryx. In the early 1960s reports reached Boyle at the offices of the Fauna Preservation Society in London that the population of the species in the wild was teetering on the brink of extinction from the depredations of motorised raiding parties. He co-ordinated a rescue scheme, Operation Oryx, which was led in the field by the chief game warden of Kenya, Ian Grimwood. After a great deal of difficulty four oryx were captured and taken to the zoo at Phoenix, Arizona, where a breeding herd was established. The Arabian oryx has since been successfully reintroduced into its former haunts from stocks bred in captivity.





Boyle showing Churchill over the so-called "Boche-Buster" in the summer of 1940, and the Arabian oryx (left), for which he campaigned in the 1960s

Charles Leofric Boyle was born in Trivandrum, South India, where his father was Professor of English at the Maharajah's College. His father died when he was three years old, and the family moved to South Brent in Devon. Later he lived in Winchester with his grandmother and, as a very small boy, attended the Winchester School for Girls. His later education was at King's School, Canterbury.

In 1917 he passed into the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery. He subsequently served in Jamaica, India and Ireland.

In the early part of the Second World War he commanded No 11 Super Heavy Battery, a special artillery unit formed at the express command of Winston Churchill, who was determined that Britain should be able to dominate the Channel with heavy guns in the aftermath of Dunkirk. Since it was impossible to produce guns of the large calibre he envisaged at short notice, the battery was formed with five 18-inch guns which had been built during the First World War. These could throw a 2,500lb shell 14 miles. The guns were also to be used to pound the Kent beaches in the event of a German landing.

Churchill took a keen personal interest in the project and Boyle was requested to show him over one of the guns, called the "Boche-Buster", which was mounted on a railway line at Bishopsbourne near Canterbury. He also worked for a time in the Army's legal department at Woolwich on courts marshal, work which appealed to him very much.

After the war he was an officer commanding troops on board ships repatriating soldiers. During these voyages he was able to indulge one of his lifelong interests — watching seabirds at sea.

He was a keen bird photographer in the days before colour photography, and his photographs of the birds of Kashmir, taken during his service in India, were exhibited in Britain and India in the 1930s and 1940s.

After retiring from the Army in 1949, he started a second career in wildlife conservation, as Secretary of the Fauna Preservation Society (now Fauna and Flora International) in 1950. This involved bringing the former Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire out of the doldrums into which it had sunk during the war years and renaming its somewhat stuffy-looking journal *Oryx*.

He attended international conferences and travelled to many parts of the world. He was responsible for introducing a Bill into Parliament for the Control of the Importation of Endangered Species. He was appointed OBE in 1963 for services to wildlife conservation and in 1973 received the Order of the Golden Ark from Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, one of the first group of people to receive it.

After retiring as Secretary of the Fauna Society in 1963, he served on the Wild Animals Committee of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and edited the *RSPCA Book of British Mammals*. He was a frequent proselytiser for wildlife causes in articles in *The Times* in the 1950s and 1960s.

He is survived by his four daughters of his first marriage, and by his second wife Valerie, to whom he was married for 48 years.

PROFESSOR GORDON STEWART

Professor Gordon Stewart, microbiologist, died of a brain tumour on February 27 aged 47. He was born on October 2, 1951.

GORDON STEWART made one of the most important discoveries in microbiology of the 1990s: that bacterial cells can talk to each other using a chemical "language".

This phenomenon, which became known as "quorum sensing", allows bacteria to control their behaviour in a population-dependent manner, and hints at a key stage in the evolution of multicellular organisms such as ourselves. The decoding of this bacterial language has enormous commercial and therapeutic implications, especially for the development of new drugs for the treatment and prevention of infections due to multi-antibiotic resistant strains.

Stewart's career was based on the application of fundamental molecular genetic techniques to problems of relevance to the food and pharmaceutical industries, such as engineering bacteria to emit light.

After graduating from St Andrews with a degree in Biochemistry in 1974, Gordon Sidney Anderson Birnie Stewart moved to Glaxo Research at Greenford in Essex. He then took a doctorate at Cambridge, and went on to do postdoctoral work on bacterial spores under the guidance of Dr David Ellar, punctuated by another short sojourn at Greenford.

In 1982 Fisons Pharmaceuticals of Loughborough seconded Stewart to the laboratory of Dr Jon Kuhn at the Technion in Haifa, Israel, where his love affair with bacterial bioluminescence began.

On returning to Britain in 1985, Stewart joined the department of food microbiology at Nottingham University, where he focused on the application of genetic engineering techniques to microbiological problems of industrial importance.

His success as a teacher and researcher quickly led to promotion, and he was awarded a chair in applied molecular biology (funded by Amersham International). Under his leadership, the department achieved the top rating of 5* in the government assessments of 1996.

Stewart's research into quorum sensing emerged from a close collaboration with Professors Barrie Bycroft, Paul Williams and George Salmond, and as it became more pharmaceutically orientated, he moved, in 1997, to the Nottingham school of pharmaceutical sciences.

During his terribly brief but outstanding career, he supervised more than 30 doctoral students, published more than 100 scientific papers and 10 patents, served on the editorial boards and committees of a number of journals and learned societies, and was in great demand as a speaker the world over.

He found time to establish a company to develop his work on novel rapid methods for detecting and enumerating bacteria that cause disease and spoil food, and this research was recognised by the Society for General Microbiology, which awarded him the Colworth Prize in 1997.

Stewart's enthusiasm for science was inexhaustible, and he never tackled any problem half-heartedly: mountains were for climbing, not circumventing. He always made time to help his students, and guided many a young scientist embarking on the uncertainties of a research career. His laboratories were always full of visitors, from home and abroad, keen to be initiated into the dark secrets of bacterial bioluminescence.

Stewart is survived by his wife, Lesley, and his three sons.

MARJORIE HESSELL TILTMAN

Marjorie Hessell Tiltman, writer and journalist, died on February 26 aged 98. She was born on June 16, 1900.

A PROLIFIC writer and journalist, Marjorie Hessell Tiltman will be most widely remembered for her 1939 bestseller, *Quality Chase*, a novel set in the Midlands and based on the early life of her father, Sydney Hand.

Marjorie Hand was the eldest of five children, and was born when her father, Sydney, began to achieve real success as a fine-arts dealer in Stourbridge. Despite being her father's favourite, she endured a turbulent childhood, largely because of his mercurial temperament and legendary rages. When she was six years old, he sold every item of stock and all the family furniture in order to finance a move — with attendant servants and a nanny for Marjorie and her siblings — to premises in New Street, Birmingham.

Not content with this move, Hand believed the only path to real wealth lay in London, and once again he sold everything, this time including the linen, and moved into Grafton Street. The family followed, and settled in Gates House, Hampstead.

On the outbreak of the First World War, Marjorie entered Tremarth Girls School, where she spent four happy years. She subsequently went to the Triangle college of journalism, and spent some time working with her father, who was not the easiest mentor. In 1918 she



joined *The Pictorial* magazine as a junior, but also did freelance work. Around that time she met Hugh Hessell Tiltman, a writer and keen liberal journalist, who wrote a series of successful adventure books, and then, in such works as *An Authentic Life* (1929) and *The Terror in Europe* (1930), espoused minority causes with great enthusiasm. They married in 1925 and were to travel extensively.

The couple spent a number of weeks touring in Russia, where they were made welcome by the Soviet authorities. Her husband's subsequent vivid reports led to his being castigated as a fellow-traveller by the British press and a traitor to the Revolution by the Soviets.

Together the couple bought a cottage in Coldwaltham in West Sussex, where she did most of her writing on country concerns for periodicals such as *Country Life* and *Good Housekeeping*.

In 1937 her husband was assigned to Shanghai by *The Manchester Guardian*. She went out to China to join him, staying with her sister Kathleen and her husband Victor Farmer in Tianjin. There she bought large quantities of jade porcelain, and in particular amassed a fine collection of oriental snuff bottles.

But she returned home after a few months to her cottage, where she continued her writing career. Her first novel, *Quality Chase*, was published in 1939, to wide acclaim. It was the *Evening Standard*'s book of the year and was later dramatised on BBC radio. The success of this book prompted her to write a further 13 fiction and non-fiction titles, including the much-praised *Cottage Pie* (1940), *A Little Place in the Country* (1944) and *Goodbye to Lilley House* (1948).

Most of her journalism concerned rural matters, and she spent much time cultivating her garden at her cottage, where she lived happily during the war while her husband was in Washington.

When he was posted to Tokyo in 1951, she joined him. He stayed on as Japan correspondent of *The Guardian* until 1963, but the destruction and poverty upset his wife, and she remained only a few months. Thereafter they lived separate lives. Upon returning to England, she moved to Pulborough, where she lived until her death.

Her husband died in 1976. They had no children. She left £100,000 to PEN to establish a literary prize fund.

CANON BILL VANSTONE

Canon Bill Vanstone, priest and theologian, died on March 4 aged 75. He was born on May 9, 1923.

BILL VANSTONE was a great Church of England priest who devoted his gifts to pastoral care. In his efforts to serve his parishes he abandoned holidays, smoked the rankest of Capstan cigarettes, concealed his extraordinary intellectual gifts from his parishioners and frustrated the efforts of Oxbridge colleges, bishops and friends to obtain his services and to care for his health. He never locked his vicarage door.

He gave 20 years to his first parish at Kirkholt, a new housing estate outside Rochdale, where he built up the church community and designed a new church building. Afterwards he was briefly at another Lancashire housing estate at Hattersley, which had a grim link to the Moors murders. However, by 1978 his health dictated that he became a Canon Residentiary at Chester, where he was able to write and reflect for the last 12 years of his active ministry.

William Hubert Vanstone was born at Mossley Vicarage, Lancashire. He joined the RAF, learnt to fly Mosquitoes in Canada and was lucky to survive a crash. At Balliol after the war he gained a double first: at Westcott House, Cambridge, he took a starred first in the second part of the Tripos, and he then added further distinctions at the Union Theological Seminary under Paul Tillich in New York.

He was ordained in Manchester in 1950 by Bishop William Greer, a perceptive recruiter of curates for the North. His first published essay *The Ministry in the New Testament* appeared in *The Historic Episcopate*, a volume of essays edited by K. M. Carey. The other contributors were all friends of Vanstone's: John Robinson, Kenneth Woollcombe, Barry Till, Alan Webster and Hugh Montefiore.

Vanstone argued against those who would have unchurched the Church of South India. He insisted that in thinking about church structures, meaning, not validity or utility, was crucial. "It does not follow that the Church separated from the episcopate ceases to be the Church . . . its life is still the life of the Spirit." In all Vanstone's work, there were flashes of the radical within a scholarly Church of England outlook.

In Lancashire, Vanstone devoted himself to his parishioners, young or old, churchgoing or not. He inspired affection on the housing estate. Everyone knew they could turn to him. He never married. His parish was his family. His summer camps for boys were famous. He created a new parish organisation called Sigma to replace the Scout movement. His sermons always arose out of local events, many of which are described in his later writings.

Vanstone's pastoral experience led him to be deeply committed to the belief that we worship a suffering God. In 1977 his *Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense*, which won the Collins Religious Book Prize, set out his convictions on the need for unlimited self-giving in all activities. As he wrote in the 1981 Doctrine Commission Report, "The Good God may be 'the sharer' rather than 'the cause' of suffering." He urged that neither pride nor indifference should prevent us from accepting each other.

Vanstone was a man of complete integrity, but as the task in housing estates became more intractable and his own health more uncertain, he could respond negatively to fresh approaches to worship and Christian life. On the Manchester Diocesan Liturgical Committee he urged constant adherence to the 1662 Prayer Book. Vanstone concentrated his care and thought on the actual sufferings of those who lived around him and the meaning of life in the light of the Gospel.

At Chester under the leadership of the thoughtful and courageous Dean Ingram Cleasby, Vanstone had time to conduct retreats, write his *Stature of Waiting* and continue his ministry as a befriender with an ever-open house. He chose to live in a cottage rather than a spacious canon's residence. There were endless conversations in his little front garden with those passing by on their way to the cathedral.

He had time to do much for the Church of England Doctrine Commission. His highly original essay on *Doctrine Diffused* did rare justice to those who, while not attending church, still consider the parish church to be their church. He was a Six Preacher at Canterbury and in 1968 was awarded a Lambeth DD.

In retirement at Tetbury, he wrote his happiest book, *Fare Well in Christ*. The earlier tense struggles in parishes, which had led him occasionally to romanticise parish life, were over. He appealed to believers to relax in their faith and to trust in a loving as well as a suffering God. This reflected his own discoveries. His meditations on the Sign of the Cross in Russian prisoner-of-war camps, his plea that availability is a major human virtue and his final verses on Joseph of Arimathea's Easter are memorable religious writing at a deep level. The whole corpus of his work had reached a conclusion.

Years before, when he was writing *The Stature of Waiting*, he had described the passive Christ as a figure of extraordinary meaning and dignity. He now lived this out himself. He will be remembered for his hymns, especially *Morning Glory, Starlit Sky*, and for his small but profound devotional works.

Vanstone in the shadow of Chester Cathedral

ABOL-HASSAN EBTEHAJ

Abol-Hassan Ebtehaj, Iranian banker and statesman, died on February 24 aged 99. He was born on November 29, 1899.

FOR nearly six decades Abol-Hassan Ebtehaj served his country, as a commercial and central banker, ambassador and economic planner. Twice he declined the Shah's offer — in 1944 and 1950 — to become Prime Minister, knowing that he was not sufficiently pliable to endure the irrationalities and the strain of Iranian politics.

Though never anti-foreign, Ebtehaj was a true nationalist, dedicated to reducing foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of Iran. He believed that Iran should rely not on bilateral aid, which was frequently a source of unwelcome political influence, but should seek multilateral aid from such international agencies as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Abol-Hassan Ebtehaj was seven years old in 1906 when the Iranian Revolution gave the country a modern constitution, and his education in Paris and Beirut exposed him to Western thought as well as making him fluent in French and English.

Late in 1920, after the murder of his father by the [...] assistant chief inspector, but the bank's policy precluded Iranians from managerial posts, so he left to join the Government in 1936.

After rising through Bank Melli Iran and the State Mortgage Bank, he became the governor of Bank Melli in 1942. The country was then occupied by Allied forces and experiencing severe political and economic upheaval. Ebtehaj made it clear that he would run the bank as an autonomous institution, and in his eight years there he reformed it thoroughly. He created a cadre of professional officers, restored people's confidence in the currency and the bank, ably represented Iran at Bretton Woods, and successfully negotiated with Sir Stafford Cripps to secure the release of Iran's gold reserve.

Along the way, owing to his intemperate and uncompromising attitude and abrasive style, he made political enemies who ultimately forced him out of office.

Shortly after leaving the bank in 1950, he reluctantly agreed to become Ambassador to France, with accreditation to Spain and Portugal, but he was replaced in 1952. Then he acted as an adviser at the IMF, and director of its Middle Eastern department until 1954.

Ebtehaj had been advocat[...]



disrupted the flow of oil revenues. Within a few days of his return to Tehran in 1954, Ebtehaj was received by the Shah, who offered him a choice of heading the National Iranian Oil Company or the Plan Organisation. Ebtehaj elected to serve as the managing director of the Plan Organisation, but made it clear that he would not brook interference from anyone, including the Prime Minister or the Shah.

He prepared a new Seven Year Plan and enlisted the help of the World Bank first to provide $75 million credit for development. A few days before he resigned in 1959, he received an American mission, headed by Admiral Radford, the Joint Chief of Staff, to appraise Iran's ability to ab[...] a long list of items of [...]ed, Ebtehaj roared at the top of his voice: "Iran does not need military hardware; Iran needs economic development." With those words he spurned the last vestige of the Shah's support. A few days later, authority for the Plan Organisation was transferred to the office of the Prime Minister.

Ebtehaj then set out to establish the Iranian Bank, which thrived from January 1960 until it was nationalised by the Revolutionary Government in 1979.

In an interview with Ed Murrow in 1961, Ebtehaj spoke critically of economic policy and planning in Iran. He openly attacked Washington for giving economic and military support to developing countries such as Iran, and he advocated a programme of international assistance with rules applying equally to all nations. When he returned to Tehran he was arrested and jailed on trumped-up charges relating to the construction of the Dez Dam. However, after seven months, international protests led the public prosecutor to offer his release on bail of $140 million. Ebtehaj refused to accept, and remained in jail until the bail was dropped.

After the Revolution, he left Iran for Cannes, where he lived with Mrs Azar Ebtehaj for a few years before they came to London, where he [...]

ON THIS DAY

April 2, 1855

Our Special Correspondent was the incomparable William Howard Russell. The Prince Consort dismissed him as "a miserable scribbler". Thackeray thought differently: "What can any novelist write so interesting?"

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL

From our special correspondent

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Mar. 19.

I HAVE made up my mind never to praise the Crimean weather again till it has settled firmly for three weeks at the least. All our Spring has changed to November — roaring winds, cold gloomy days, and gray leaden skies have driven away our Favonian breezes, our warm bright noons, and mellow sunshine. The weather without being severe is unpleasant just now; ere I finish my despatch it may be worthy of the best season in the best part of Italy or Madeira.

It is easy to give an abstract of our proceedings since the date of our last mail. The Russians have armed their new battery, which the French failed to take some nights ago, and they have erected a strong work, which will soon be armed, on the "Mamelon," formerly known as Gordon's Hill.

For three days the enemy have shut up their batteries, and have preserved the profoundest silence. They have closed up about 40 of their embrasures for some unknown purpose. Of concealed these embrasures, no one pretends to say. A force of 15,000 men is reported to have entered the city. Another force of equal strength is stated to have crossed the Tchernaya from the Army of the Belbek, and to have gone away towards Baidar. The French have gained in several attacks to take some rifle pits occupied by the enemy in front of Malakhoff and the Mamelon.

Our siege works are in a state of completion. Those of the French are almost as [...] batteries. The defences of Balaklava are strengthened day after day, guns of large calibre are placed in position along the heights and the disadvantages of a plunging fire are obviated as far a possible.

The French have thrown up a new work, containing six guns, right above our 32-pounder battery, on the road to Kadikoi. General Simpson, Sir J. McNeill and Colonel McMurdo are deeply engaged in the business of their respective departments. Admiral Boxer has devoted himself with much energy to the improvement of the harbour, and has effected very considerable amelioration in the condition of the moorings and of the approaches to the harbour itself, as well as in the roads for the transport of munitions of war which are stored there.

A very useful form has been prepared and sent round to the various regiments, I presume by the direction of General Simpson. It consists of a series of questions, to which the answers must be given and sent in twice a month. The commanding officer is required to state, "Whether there has been any deficiency of rations?" "How often fresh meat has been issued?" "Whether the men have received vegetables?" "Whether the men are in huts?" "If they are not in huts, what is the reason?" "Have the huts been brought up by the regimental horses or by the Commissariat, or [...]

NEWS

US outrage at PoW show trial

■ Three bruised and battered American soldiers, snatched by Yugoslav troops across the border from Kosovo, are to appear at a show trial in Belgrade today.

The sight of the three men on Yugoslav state television looking shocked and haggard caused outrage across the United States and President Clinton said that President Milosevic would be held personally responsible for their safety. He said: "There was absolutely no basis for them to be taken and there is no basis for them to be held"....................Pages 1, 4-11

British lorries smuggle refugees

■ British lorry drivers are being used by gangs to smuggle Kosovan refugees across the Channel every night. Many drivers are the unwitting victims of an operation that involves slipping asylum-seekers into their lorries at Channel ports.........Page 8

Easter sunshine

Sun-worshippers fleeing the cities for Easter encountered massive traffic congestion, with the consolation that they are likely to enjoy near-record temperatures. Page 1

War criminal jailed

Anthony Sawoniuk was given two life sentences at the Old Bailey after becoming the only person to be convicted in a British court of war crimes.......Pages 1-3

Disruptive children

Staff from a high-security hospital are training teachers to deal with disruptive children as young as three....................Page 12

Education 'deceit'

A union leader launched a stinging attack on Labour's stewardship of the education service yesterday, accusing ministers of "designer deceit"....................Page 12

Cocaine sentence

The wife of former European showjumping champion Paddy McMahon was starting a 12-year jail sentence after being convicted of involvement in a £2 million cocaine-smuggling racket...Page 13

Murder charge

The Briton charged with murdering his children's nanny and lover in the US is alleged to have beaten her to death with a wrench when she told him she wanted to end their relationship......Page 13

Cancer dispute

Specialists in breast cancer specialists have clashed openly over whether those with the disease have more chance of survival if they are treated within three months of finding the first symptoms....................Page 16

No fooling

Shakespeare wrote of "the uncertain glory of an April day" but All Fool's Day, one of the most capricious in the weather calendar, produced temperatures to rival the hottest on record.............Page 17

Hidden treasure

An oil painting in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, once dismissed by Sir Anthony Blunt as being almost worthless has been authenticated as a Poussin, worth millions of pounds..........Page 18

Ulster peace deal

To sign up to the two Prime Minister's declaration on April 13 Gerry Adams will have to do what he and his Sinn Fein colleagues have from the outset insisted they cannot do — persuade the IRA to disarm....................Page 19

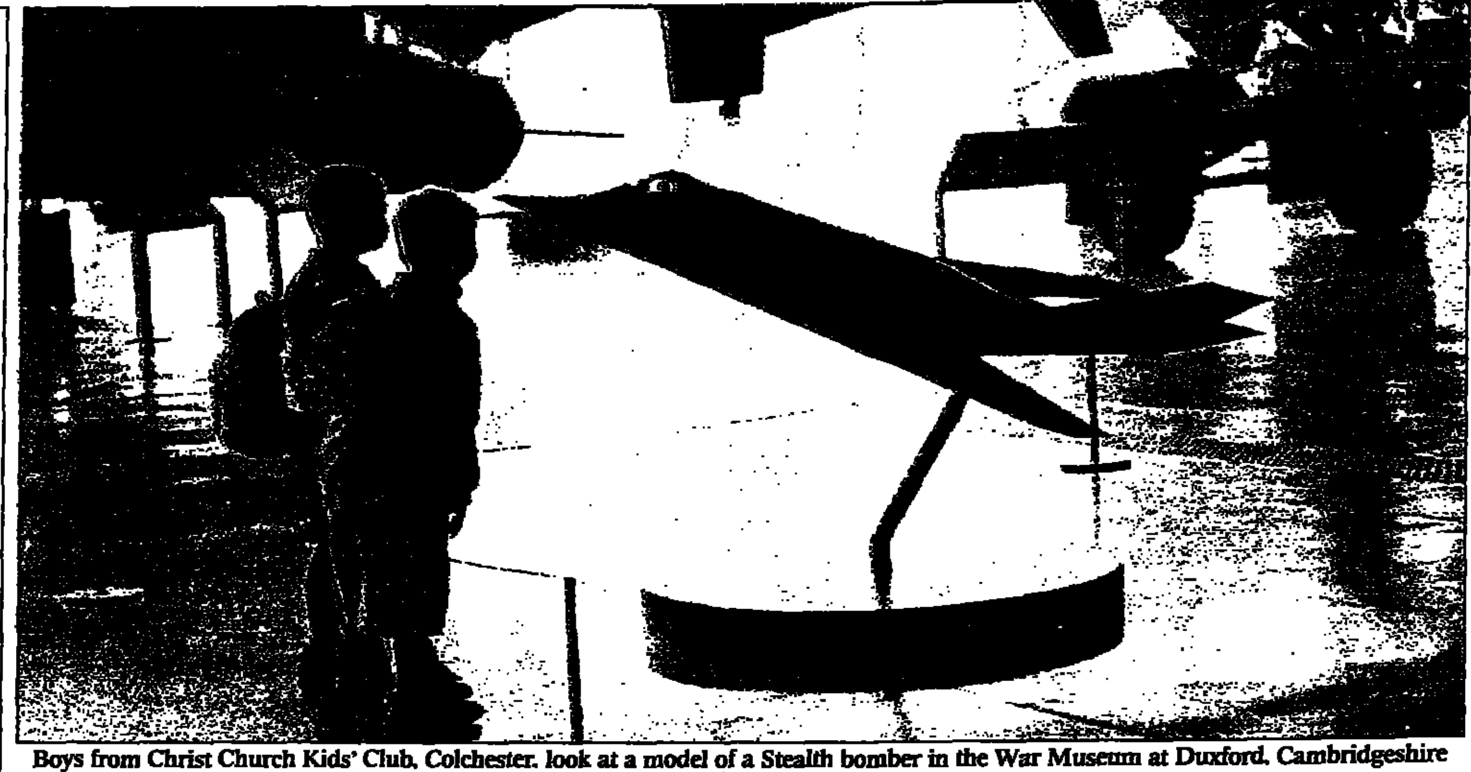
Inuit territory

Canada's newest and largest territory came into being with a freezing fireworks display, a feast of raw seal meat and the promise of an apology from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for its past sins to native Inuits.........Page 21

Sterling value of Maundy money

■ The Royal Mint is seeking ways to keep the Queen's Maundy money in sterling should Britain join the euro. As the Queen distributed the specially-minted coins to 146 pensioners in Bristol, Mint officials said they planned to protect the custom of paying the money in 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p pieces should the pound be abolished....................Page 20

BEN GURR



Boys from Christ Church Kids' Club, Colchester, look at a model of a Stealth bomber in the War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire

BUSINESS

Ashcroft returns: Michael Ashcroft, the Conservative Party benefactor, returned to the centre stage in the City with a £282 million takeover bid....................Page 29

Under fire: Gordon Brown's tax cutting credentials came under fresh attack after the Treasury Select Committee claimed that the overall tax burden "will increase during the coming year"...............Page 29

BP bonanza: BP Amoco's $26.8 billion takeover of Atlantic Richfield will trigger million dollar payoffs for executives but the loss of more than 2,000 oil jobs.............Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 34.7 to 6330.0. The pound fell .88 cents to $1.6050 and fell .48p to 67.37p against the euro. The pound index fell to 102.2 from 102.9.......Page 32

SPORT

Tennis: The Great Britain team of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski begin their great adventure as they set off to defeat the United States in the centenary Davis Cup...Page 56

Cricket: Andrew Flintoff looked an inspired choice for the World Cup after he smashed 112 from 67 balls. Unfortunately, he struck the runs against his own bowlers....Page 56

Football: Kevin Keegan moved to soothe fears that England's bleak prospects of qualifying automatically for the European Championships might force him to abandon his part-time coach role.... Page 56

Rowing: Oxford still look favourites for tomorrow's University Boat Race, even though Cambridge had a cleaner and more controlled look than earlier in the week.....Page 52

ARTS

Food of love: "What can music do, what has it ever done, to cure a famine, curb a tyrant, or reverse a terrible wrong?" Richard Morrison puts forward an answer....Page 37

Pop 1: David Sinclair reviews Orbital, Dawn of the Replicants and the rest of the week's new albums; plus jazz albums, and singer Sheila Chandra, South London-born "world citizen"....................Page 38

Pop 2: Caitlin Moran ponders the curious case of the ever-present pop miracle; plus the reformed bad boys of Electronic, and a band called Brian....................Page 39

Gingerbread kids: Welsh National Opera's gruesome version of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* travels to Sadler's Wells and terrifies Rodney Milnes...........Page 40

FEATURES

Jane Shilling: "It is hard to see how the headscarf got itself such a bad reputation. The word summons up visions of redoubtable females, their heads wrapped in a knotted length of material" ....Page 22

Late winner: The woman who has become a keen supporter of a second division football club, at the age of 74....................Page 23

MEDIA

Sun-spot: Any resemblance to *The Sun* is deliberate. Stuart Higgins, the tabloid's former editor, explains how he helped to launch a new Turkish morning paper.....Page 42

Radio rebels: Liberalisation of radio licences was meant to increase listener choice. So why are rebel radio stations flourishing ?...Page 44

EDUCATION

Off-course: For students with weak A-level results, it has never been easier to get into university. But higher education can harm job prospects....................Page 47

THE PAPERS

The map of Canada changed when the territory of Nunavut became part of the federation. We are happy that Canada has recognised Inuit can govern themselves, as they did before. Now is the time for Inuit groups in other parts of Canada to move forward on the same path

— *Montreal Gazette*

RADIO & TV

Preview: The last in the *Hornblower* series (ITV, 8pm) **Review:** I bet Wenger doesn't have to cope with this nonsense, says Paul Hoggart of *Playing the Field*....Pages 54, 55

OPINION

A holding agreement

Mr Blair has provided the republican movement with a breathing space in which to reach a fateful decision. Gerry Adams should make the most of it....................Page 25

Good Friday

It is the hope kindled by the Easter encounters with the Risen Jesus that makes all things new. In the light of Easter we see that love's redeeming work was indeed done through the Cross, not apart from the Cross....................Page 25

Loose delivery

Mr Engel may come to regret that he did not let rain stop his own play on this particular wicket....Page 25

COLUMNS

ROSEMARY RIGHTER

Mr Milosevic has plunged Nato into what may be a long and difficult campaign; resolution will be needed to build the peace. The foundations must be laid now .Page 24

M. Pinto-Duschinsky

Those responsible for current mass murders must be brought to trial without regard to which side they are on. If this happens human rights in Europe may come to be respected....................Page 24

VANORA BENNETT

If our democracy is to prove as sophisticated as our weaponry, public support will be best served by honest dialogue....................Page 24

OBITUARIES

Lieutenant Colonel C.J. Boyle, wildlife expert; **Canon Bill Vanstone; Marjorie Hessell Tiltman**, writer; **Professor Gordon Stewart**, microbiologist....................Page 27

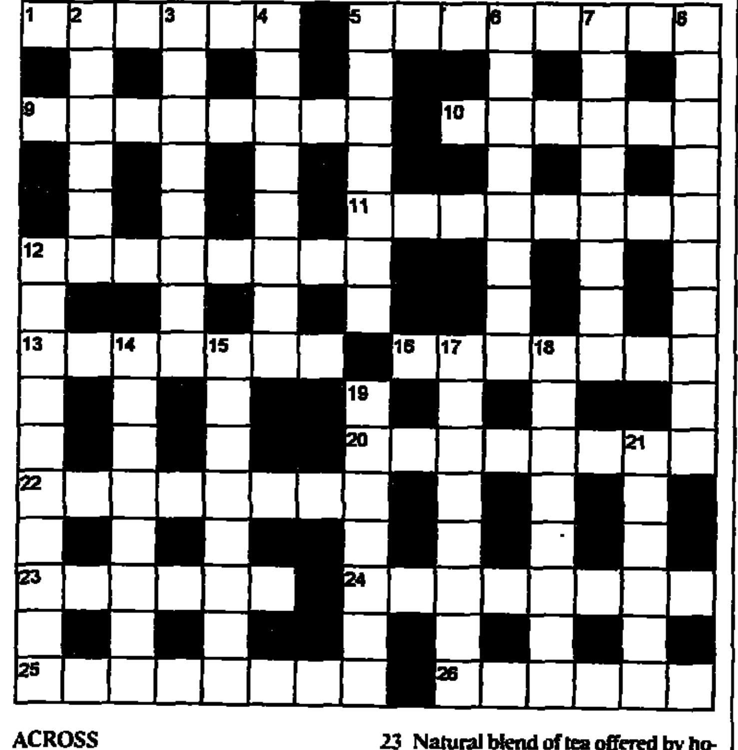
LETTERS

Ethnic cleansing in Kosovo; new housing stock; could the Devil be female; Good Friday: women priests; computer chaos; the school run; Thatcher and Pinochet; science in Russia; wedding gifts.........Page 25

LOTTERY NUMBERS

1, 5, 12, 24, 26, 38, Bonus: 11

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,067



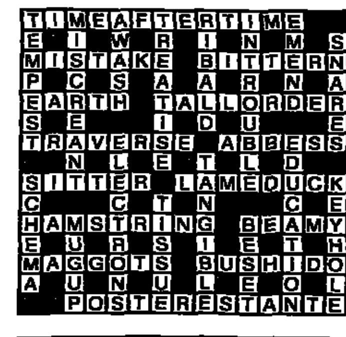
ACROSS

1 From China it developed, not new as martial art (3,3).
5 Deliberate about maiden coming to a ball with aromatic scent (8).
9 Safe to criticise children's play (5,3).
10 Team of five write little (6).
11 Giving one's notice may be very risky (8).
12 He was brought to book for his woeful predictions (8).
13 Fool taken in by wizard's manipulation (7).
16 Had dreadfully died after sack of ancient city (7).
20 Party served with prime fillet (8).
22 Old Jew depressed, expected to embrace another religion (8).
23 Natural blend of tea offered by hotel (6).
24 Give approval to girl I take out (8).
25 Subtlety of type of creed followed by one saint after another (8).
26 Engage a bishop to lead service (6).

DOWN

2 A nine-month period, then another six, as primate? (3-3).
3 Draughts in US politician's house (8).
4 What model says at work is grand (8).
5 Swaggering confidence in complete cure cut short with heroin injection (7).
6 Supporting a risky activity (8).
7 Having no emotions in such a home (8).
8 Vigorous old beer – odd brew (3-7).
12 Blocks broadcast with weird noises and improvised music (3,7).
14 Conrad is wrong to be cynical (8).
15 After a month, article describing Pope's age (8).
17 Nearly four feet separating horse and a woman (8).
18 Travels with short apostolic letter over islands (8).
19 After cuts in field operations, they're bound to pile up (7).
21 Name total idiot (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,066



Times Two Crossword, page 56

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1999. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Knowsley Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Friday, April 2, 1999. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 410
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 308
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	N. Ireland	416 341
Wales	416 335	London	416 342
Midlands	416 336	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
East Anglia	416 337		
N West	416 338		
N. East	416 339		
Scotland	416 340		

Metfax Marine

Inshore leisure forecasts 416 390

World City Weather The Met. Office

151 destinations world wide
6 day forecasts

by Phone dial	0336 411216
by Fax (index page)	0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

Automobile Association Developments Ltd. Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.34 am — Sun sets: 7.34 pm

Moon sets: 7.35 am — Moon rises: 9.12 pm

Last quarter April 9

London 7.34 pm to 6.32 am
Bristol 7.44 pm to 6.42 am
Edinburgh 7.52 pm to 6.40 am
Manchester 7.45 pm to 6.39 am
Penzance 7.56 pm to 6.56 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** it will more unsettled than yesterday with temperatures not quite as high, but it will still be fairly warm. Wales, much of England and Northern Ireland will have a few sharp showers, but in between there will be some warm sunshine. Eastern Scotland and northeast England will be cool with mist and low cloud feeding in off the North Sea. Meanwhile, northern and western Scotland will have a warm day with some good sunny spells, although showers may break out in the southwest.

Tonight, a band of showers will move across eastern England and Scotland. Elsewhere, it will be dry for a while with clear periods but some more showers will spread into southwest England, Wales and Northern Ireland before morning.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Midlands:** warm, sunny spells, some sharp showers. Wind light, SE to SW. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **E England, Central N & NE England:** mist and fog towards the coast. Brighter inland with a mix of sunny spells and the odd shower. Wind moderate, SE. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Channel Islands, SW England, South Wales:** the odd shower this morning but spells of warm sunshine developing. Wind light, SW. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** scattered showers, some heavy, but quite mild as sunny spells develop. Wind light, SE to SW. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mist and fog along the coastal fringes. Warm sunny spells developing inland. Wind moderate, SE. Max 15C (59F) but cooler on the coast.

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** mild with a few sunny spells, but a few showers breaking out. Wind moderate, SE. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland:** warm and mainly dry with decent sunny spells. Wind moderate, SE. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **N Ireland:** early showers gradually dying out to leave warm sunny spells by this afternoon. Wind moderate, S to SE. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** scattered showers early at first, then sunny intervals, clouding over later. Wind S to SE, mainly moderate. Max temp 15C (59F).

☐ **Outlook:** Saturday will be warm, but rather unsettled with sunny spells and showers. Easter Sunday may start a little cloudy but the east will become warm and sunny. The west will also be warm but will stay more cloudy with rain expected in western Scotland and Northern Ireland.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull, f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder

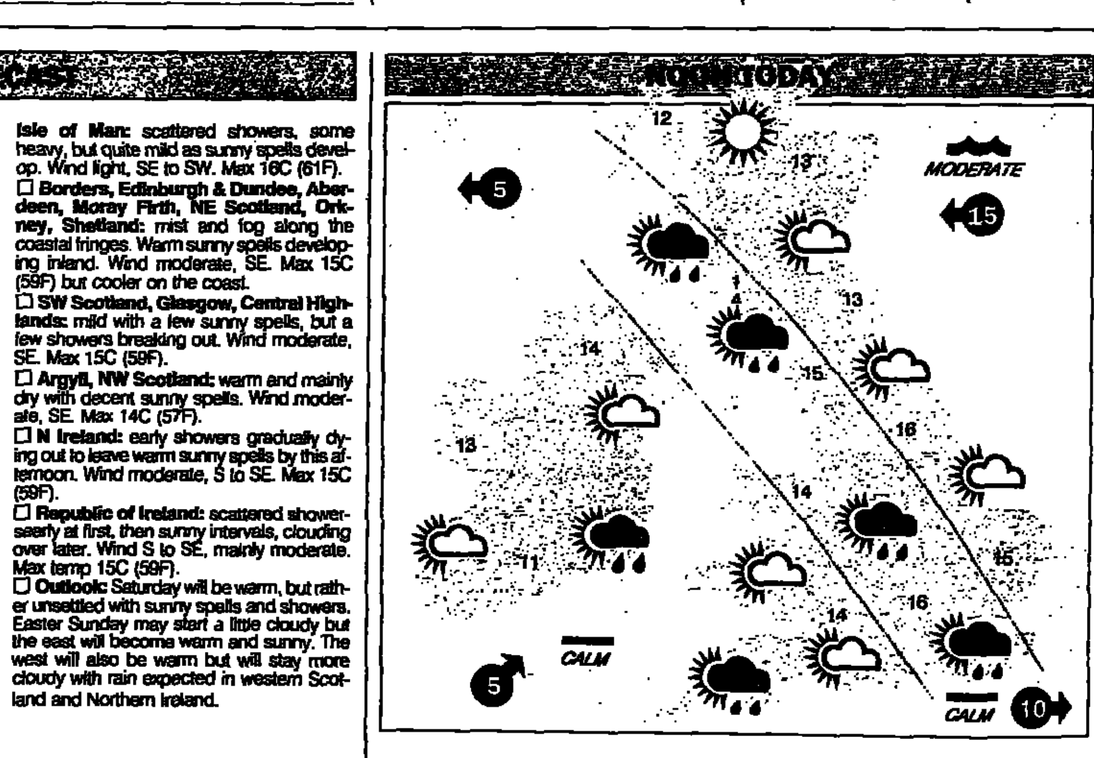
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.5	-	11	52	c	Leeds	8.5	-	19	66	s
Anglesey	5.0	-	20	68	s	Lerwick	5.2	0.02	10	50	s
Aspatria	2.1	-	19	66	b	Leuchars	5.5	-	10	50	s
Aviemore	4.0	0.01	17	63	b	Littlehampton	10.8	-	18	64	s
Belfast	6.1	-	16	61	s	London	10.9	-	20	68	s
Birmingham	9.7	-	19	66	s	Lowestoft	10.8	-	12	54	s
Bognor R	10.3	-	16	61	s	Manchester	6.7	-	20	68	s
Bournemth	9.5	-	17	63	s	Margate	10.5	-	15	59	s
Bristol	7.7	-	20	68	s	Morecambe	7.2	-	20	68	s
Buxton	8.5	-	17	63	s	Newcastle	7.8	-	15	59	s
Cardiff	4.6	-	19	66	s	Newquay	6.3	0.01	15	59	s
Clacton	11.4	-	11	52	s	Norwich	10.7	-	17	63	s
Cleethorpes	9.7	-	13	55	s	Oxford	8.9	-	21	70	s
Colwyn Bay	3.2	0.01	19	66	b	Penzance	6.1	0.01	14	57	s
Cromer	10.9	-	14	57	s	Poole	9.6	-	17	63	s
Edinburgh	5.4	-	13	55	s	Prestatyn	4.4	-	19	66	b
Eskdalemuir	3.1	-	16	61	b	Ross on Wye	8.5	-	20	68	s
Exmouth	6.9	0.01	13	55	s	Saunton Sands	4.5	-	21	70	s
Fishguard	4.2	-	19	66	b	Scarborough	6.6	0.01	14	57	s
Folkestone	11.1	-	17	63	s	Shrewsbury	6.8	-	19	66	s
Glasgow	5.0	0.01	19	66	s	Skegness	10.2	-	11	52	s
Guernsey	5.5	0.01	18	64	s	Southsea	10.6	-	16	61	s
Hastings	10.8	-	18	64	s	Stornoway	7.5	0.25	17	63	s
Herne Bay	X	-	19	66	s	Swanage	8.8	-	12	54	s
Isle of Man	6.6	-	14	57	s	Teignmouth	7.0	-	12	54	s
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	13	55	s	Tiree	5.9	0.09	15	59	s
Jersey	6.9	0.01	18	64	s	Torquay	6.8	-	15	59	s
Kinloss	5.0	-	19	66	s	Weymouth	8.3	-	13	55	s

ABROAD

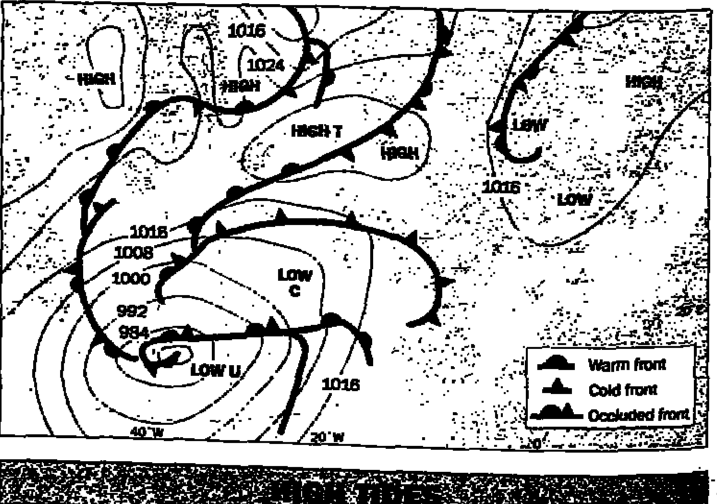
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	s	Cologne	17	63	s	Madrid	21	70	s	Rome	17	63	s
Akrotiri	20	68	s	C'phagn	12	54	f	Majorca	19	66	s	Salzburg	13	55	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Corfu	17	63	t	Malaga	21	70	s	S Frisco	10	50	s
Algiers	22	72	s	Dublin	10	50	c	Malta	17	63	f	Santiago	23	73	t
Amst'dm	18	64	s	Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Melbourne	X			S Paulo	X		
Athens	17	63	t	Faro	18	64	s	Mexico C	X			Seoul	16	61	s
Bahrain	28	82	s	Florence	19	66	t	Miami	25	77	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Bangkok	34	93	f	Frankfurt	12	54	s	Milan	19	66	s	Stockholm	9	48	f
Barbados	25	77	r	Funchal	19	66	c	Montreal	11	52	s	Strasb'rg	15	59	s
Barcelona	15	59	s	Geneva	13	55	s	Moscow	14	57	s	Sydney	21	70	c
Beijing	7	45	r	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Munich	13	55	f	Tangier	18	64	f
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	8	46	s	Nairobi	25	77	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Belgrade	15	59	t	Hong K	24	75	s	Naples	17	63	t	Tenerife	21	70	t
Berlin	16	61	s	Innsbruck	14	57	s	N Delhi	X			Tokyo	11	52	c
Bermuda	19	66	f	Istanbul	10	50	r	N York	22	72	s	Toronto	20	68	s
Biarritz	25	77	s	Jeddah	37	99	s	Nice	16	61	s	Tunis	19	66	t
Bordeaux	22	72	s	Jo'burg	20	68	f	Oslo	3	37	f	Valencia	18	64	s
Brussels	17	63	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	18	64	s	Vanc'ver	6	43	f
Budapest	18	64	f	Le Touquet	18	64	t	Perth	X			Venice	18	64	s
B Aires	20	68	f	Lisbon	18	64	f	Prague	15	59	s	Vienna	17	63	s
Cairo	24	75	s	Locarno	16	61	s	Reykjavik	-3	27	s	Warsaw	17	63	s
Cape Tn	35	95	s	L Angeles	15	59	s	Rhodes	12	54	r	Wash'ton	22	72	s
Chicago	21	70	s	Luxembg	15	59	s	Rio de J	27	81	t	Wellington	X		
Ch'church	X			Luxor	28	82	s	Riyadh	34	93	s	Zurich	9	48	f

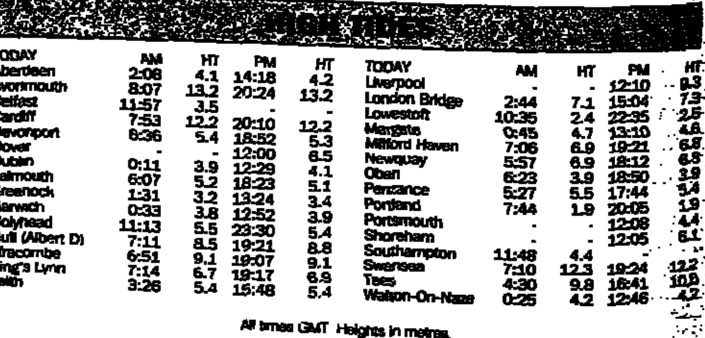
Temperatures at midday local time X - not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low C drifts E and loses its identity. Low U remains slow moving with little change in pressure. High T drifts N





HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:08	4.1	14:18	4.2	Liverpool	-	-	12:10	8.3
Avonmouth	8:07	13.2	20:24	13.2	London Bridge	2:44	7.1	15:04	7.3
Belfast	11:57	3.5	-	-	Lowestoft	10:35	2.4	22:35	2.5
Cardiff	7:53	12.2	20:10	12.2	Margate	0:45	4.7	13:10	4.6
Devonport	6:36	5.4	18:52	5.3	Milford Haven	7:06	6.9	19:21	6.8
Dover	-	-	12:00	6.5	Newquay	5:57	6.9	18:12	6.5
Dublin	0:11	3.9	12:29	4.1	Oban	6:23	3.9	18:50	3.9
Falmouth	6:07	5.2	18:23	5.1	Penzance	5:27	5.5	17:44	5.4
Greenock	1:31	3.2	13:24	3.4	Portland	7:44	1.9	20:05	1.9
Harwich	0:33	3.8	12:52	3.9	Portsmouth	-	-	12:08	4.4
Holyhead	11:13	5.5	23:30	5.4	Shoreham	-	-	12:05	6.1
Hull (Albert D)	7:11	8.5	19:21	8.8	Southampton	11:48	4.4	-	-
Ilfracombe	6:51	9.1	19:07	9.1	Swansea	7:10	12.3	19:24	12.2
King's Lynn	7:14	6.7	19:17	6.9	Tees	4:30	9.8	16:41	10.0
Leith	3:26	5.4	15:48	5.4	Walton-On-Naze	0:25	4.2	12:46	4.2

All times GMT Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's hottest: Northolt, London 21C (70F). **Lowest day max:** Tynemouth and Fair Isle 9C (48F). **Wettest:** Stornoway, Outer Hebrides 0.25ins. **Sunniest:** Clacton, Essex 11.4 hours.

Pop's miracle works
Arts, page 39

BUSINESS • ARTS • MEDIA • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

Britain back on top
Sport, page 56

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 2 1999

2

Entrepreneur confounds City institutions with complicated offer

Ashcroft bids £200m for CSG

BY PAUL DURMAN

MICHAEL ASHCROFT, one of the great wheeler-dealer entrepreneurs of the 1980s and now a leading bankroller of the Conservative Party, strode back onto the City stage yesterday with a £200 million-plus offer for the embattled Corporate Services Group.

The tycoon, who gave £1 million to help William Hague's attempts to restore the finance of the Tory party, waded into the row at CSG with an offer that has confounded three City institutions seeking their own conclusion to the troubles at the employment and training group.

Mr Ashcroft's offer is one of the more complicated offers that shareholders will have had to deal with. He plans to merge two of his companies and then to make an offer worth anything from £206 million to £282 million for CSG which has issued two profits warnings in the past month.

A condition of the offer is that CSG's board should remain unchanged — even though Schroders, Mercury Asset Management and M&G are seeking to force the removal of Jeffrey Fowler, its chairman, and four other directors.

Mr Fowler is understood to share Mr Ashcroft's close ties to the Tory party. However, it is believed that until recently Mr Ashcroft had not seen Mr Fowler for more than ten years.

Tim Holland-Bosworth, a CSG director, said Mr Ashcroft "clearly thinks more highly of management than the [dissident institutional shareholders]", whose action he said was badly damaging for the group's business.

However, one of CSG's critics said: "If this is a white knight, they must be colour blind."

CSG strongly urged its shareholders to take no action, and to wait for the offer document from "New Carlisle" — the £464 million company to be formed by the all-share merger of Carlisle Group, Mr Ashcroft's Aim-listed recruitment and cleaning business, and BHI Corporation, his Nasdaq-listed facilities management and financial services group.

Much of the complexity of the offer stems from an "additional cash" component, which could be financed by up to £80 million of Mr Ashcroft's shares in Tyco International, the US conglomerate to which he sold his ADT security services business for £3.5 billion.

Depending on fluctuations in Tyco's share price, Mr Ashcroft's advisers at Rea Brothers suggest the New Carlisle offer will be worth between 87.7p and 120p for each share in CSG. CSG's shares climbed from 73½p to 94½p yesterday — still far below last year's peak of 261p.

One investor said: "Don't ask me to explain the bid. It's difficult to establish the value of a bid from a vehicle that has yet to be created."

Mr Ashcroft, a veteran of dozens of deals, is said to regard his proposal as "very simple", despite the uncertainty over CSG's profitability. Estimates of last year's profits have been cut from £55 million to £20 million but Mr Ashcroft is backing his judgment and experience of running service businesses.

However, New Carlisle's offer would be conditional on CSG making underlying profits of at least £19 million and receiving an unqualified report from its auditors.

The institutions are pressing ahead with their plans to remove Mr Fowler and the other directors, since they have no confidence in the current board's ability to assess the offer.


Michael Ashcroft is back on the City stage


William Hague and the Tories received £1m

Business Today



Minimum wage
Cassandras *left out* of court

page 33

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	6333.0	(34.7)
Yield	2.44%	
FTSE All Share	2905.22	(+11.43)
Nikkei	16327.56	(+490.94)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9815.58	(+29.42)*
S&P Composite	1289.87	(+3.50)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long bond	93⅞*	(94⅞)
Yield	5.67%*	(5.62%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth interbank	5⅛%	(5⅛%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	116.98	(117.34)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6067*	(1.6102)
London:		
$	1.6050	(1.6133)
€	1.4845	(1.4948)
SFr	2.3697	(2.3883)
Yen	191.84	(191.18)
£ Index	102.2	(102.9)
DOLLAR		
London:		
€	1.0780*	(1.0780)
SFr	1.4815*	(1.4822)
Yen	120.17*	(118.85)
$ Index	108.4	(108.2)
Tokyo close Yen 118.55		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	$14.70	($15.20)
GOLD		
London close	$280.60	($279.85)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 30

Chancellor under fire over tax burden

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN's tax cutting credentials came under fresh attack yesterday after the influential Treasury Select Committee claimed that the overall tax burden "will increase during the coming year".

The Labour dominated committee also rebuked the Chancellor for failing properly to clarify his tax burden calculations and for not spelling out how he had achieved an £18 billion shortfall in public spending.

Opposition politicians immediately seized on the committee's surprisingly critical conclusions as evidence that the Chancellor had played fast and loose with his Budget arithmetic.

Francis Maude, Shadow Chancellor, said: "It is a damning indictment of Labour's lack of openness. This is the most dishonest Budget in history."

The Committee's 1999 Budget Report, however, stopped short of arguing Mr Brown's tax claims were completely inaccurate. The report said that the this year's Budget measures would reduce tax, as Mr Brown has argued, but by less than previously announced measures would increase the overall tax burden.

The report also did not endorse the chief opposition claim that Mr Brown had deliberately manipulated the accountancy treatment of certain taxes and benefits in order to make his tax-cutting claims.

The Treasury has counted the abolition of mortgage rate relief (Miras), which will cost homeowners £2.75 billion a year, as a rise in public spending even though in opposition Mr Brown treated the reduction in the rate of Miras as a tax rise.

The Chancellor has also counted the introduction of the Working Families' Tax Credit — worth £1.5 billion to eligible families — as a tax cut, despite the Office for National Statistics insisting the credit should instead be treated as a rise in public spending.

If these two accountancy conventions were reversed, opposition politicians have calculated that taxes would rise by £100 million as a direct result of this year's Budget.

However, the Committee said it saw "no objection" to the Chancellor's measure of taxes and social spending but added that Mr Brown should have better spelt out the differences.

FTSE scales record

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Stock Market scaled an all-time high yesterday, bolstered by a flood of fresh investor money and some reassuring economic data.

In the last session before the Easter holiday, the FTSE 100 index for once broke with a weak Wall Street to climb more than 100 points to peak at 6,399.1 during the day. However, the market failed to hold the majority of its gains and closed up 34.7 at 6,330.0, just short of its previous record closing high. Analysts said that end of financial year investment helped underpin the rise.

The March Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey showed retailers enjoyed their best month since September. The March purchasing manufacturers index recorded its best month since last May.

ALASTAIR GRANT/AP


Sir John Browne, BP chief executive, described the deal as a "compelling strategic fit of quality assets"

BP Amoco bonanza for Arco chiefs

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

FIVE EXECUTIVE directors of Atlantic Richfield (Arco) will share $17 million (£10 million) in severance payments after delivering the debt-burdened US oil company to BP Amoco in a $26.8 billion deal, confirmed yesterday.

The takeover of Arco will create a $190 billion behemoth but will lead to the loss of 2,000 jobs at the American company, of which 15-20 per cent will be in Alaska, where BP and Arco are already the numer one and number two oil producers.

The bulk of the jobs will go at Arco's head office in Los Angeles and its downstream operations on the US West Coast. Some 200 jobs will go at Arco's UK headquarters in Guildford, Surrey. Sir John Browne, BP's chief executive, described the takeover, which will propel BP into second position in worldwide oil and gas production, as a "compelling strategic and geographic fit of quality assets".

BP and Arco combined will be the largest oil producer in the US and in the UK. Worldwide, the enlarged BP will pump 4 million barrels of oil and gas per day (bpd), ahead of Shell's 3.7 million bpd but below Exxon-Mobil's 4.3 million bpd. Arco also brings with it a vast gasfield in Indonesia, Tangghu, with 8 trillion cubic feet in reserves.

Sir John promised that the deal would generate $1 billion in cost-savings with 70 per cent coming from upstream businesses, including a $200 million saving in Alaska, where the two companies are struggling to reverse declining oil outputs. In Alaska, BP hopes to cut the cost of lifting a barrel of oil by 80 cents.

A restructuring charge of $1 billion will affect BP's accounts this year to pay for redundancies and taxes to the UK Treasury. BP is forced to pay $400 million in Stamp Duty Reserve Tax as a result of changes in the last Finance Bill, which closed a loophole used in the BP Amoco merger.

The initial approach came from Mike Bowlin, Arco's chief executive, who contacted BP in January. According to Sir John, "he effectively offered us the company".

Sir John said that the Arco board would be not offered jobs at BP Amoco. However, recent Arco filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission reveal change of control provisions that will award the directors three times their salary plus the highest bonus paid over the past three years, plus a pro rata portion of the current year bonus target. In the case of Mr Bowlin, the severance package could be worth more than $6.8 million.

BP's exploration director, Dick Olver was rushed to Alaska at the beginning of the week for talks with the state government, where BP faces tough negotiations over its potential domination of the industry. Sir John indicated that disposals totalling $3 billion would be on the cards.

Commentary, page 31

Ford to cut 680 jobs at UK plants

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FORD is to cut 680 jobs across its UK motor factories to make them more competitive with international rivals. The news comes a day after thousands of jobs were saved at Rover's Longbridge plant.

The US group is calling for 220 redundancies from the hourly-paid staff at each of its biggest plants, Halewood and Dagenham. Other job cuts will be from salaried staff. All will be voluntary, Ford said.

Dagenham, which exports nearly half the Fiestas it builds, has been on a four-day week since October because of poor worldwide markets. Ford employs 26,800 people in the UK and last implemented redundancies two years ago, when 1,200 posts went.

Tony Woodley, Transport & General Workers' Union car negotiator, said: "If the yearly cull continues without something being done to create new jobs or at least maintain jobs, there will be no one left."

C&W sues MCI over Internet sale

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, yesterday launched a multi-million dollar lawsuit against MCI WorldCom over the $1.75 billion (£1 billion) sale of MCI's Internet assets last year

C&W, in a legal action filed in the Delaware Federal Court, accuses MCI of numerous breaches of the sale agreement and is seeking an, as yet, unspecified amount in damages and compensation.

The UK group says MCI WorldCom broke its agreement by failing effectively to transfer MCI's Internet customer base or its Internet staff; by impeding its ability to operate the Internet business; and by targeting former MCI Internet customers for marketing purposes.

C&W says that, as a result of the alleged breaches, it has lost Internet customers, revenue and marketing opportunities. There have also been significant recruitment costs for replacing staff that MCI WorldCom failed to transfer.

The suit also accuses MCI WorldCom of damaging C&W's reputation in the minds of American customers.

C&W's share price fell by 22p to 752p on news of the legal action.

Denny Matteucci, chief executive of Cable & Wireless USA, said yesterday the company would do whatever it took to protect customers and services. "That includes the costly measures we've had to take due to MCI WorldCom's non-performance under the purchase agreement and our resolve to pursue litigation to a successful agreement," he said.

The lawsuit is clearly the opening shot in a tough final round of negotiations to set a final valuation on the MCI Internet deal. The $1.75 billion deal was always subject to "post-closing adjustments" which in this case could be considerable.

The dispute, however, is unlikely to threaten the continuation of the deal, which is at the centre of C&W's plans to expand using the Internet. MCI had to dispose of the Internet business as a regulatory quid pro quo for merging with WorldCom.

MCI WorldCom yesterday declined to comment.

Teletubbies director on awards shortlist

THE woman who gave the world the Teletubbies is among the five candidates on the shortlist for the Businesswoman of the Year Award.

Anne Wood, 61-year-old founder and creative director of Ragdoll Productions, the independent producer of the hit toddlers' television programme, has been shortlisted alongside other executives working in retailing, recruitment, IT and ship maintenance.

Rivalling her for the award sponsored by Veuve Clicquot and won last year by Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson, are:

Linda Bennett, the owner and managing director of LK Bennett, a footwear and clothing chain started in Wimbledon in 1990:

Lorna Moran, the founding chief executive of the quoted recruitment company Northern Recruitment, based in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Christiane Wuillamie, a French citizen of Vietnamese descent now living in the UK, who is chief executive of CWB Systems Services, an IT company with offices in the City of London and New York:

Yvonne Mason, chairwoman and founder of Fender Care, based in Seething, Norfolk, which maintains ship fenders.

The announcement of the winner will be on April 29.



Celebrating their selection to the Businesswoman of the Year shortlist are, from left, Linda Bennett, Christiane Wuillamie, Yvonne Mason and Anne Wood

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.61	2.43
Austria Sch	21.44	19.78
Belgium Fr	63.11	58.15
Canada $	2.531	2.343
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9034	0.8319
Denmark Kr	11.64	10.75
Egypt	5.66	5.05
Finland Mkk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.21	9.43
Germany Dm	3.068	2.826
Greece Dr	511	472
Hong Kong $	13.25	12.05
Iceland	128	109
Indonesia	17453	12453
Ireland Pt	1.2243	1.1353
Israel Shk	6.82	6.16
Italy Lira	3052	2815
Japan Yen	206.55	189.02
Malta	0.671	0.612
Netherlds Gld	3.464	3.169
New Zealand $	3.13	2.89
Norway Kr	13.00	12.06
Portugal Esc	310.34	288.31
S Africa Rd	10.50	9.54
Spain Pta	258.64	239.85
Sweden Kr	14.01	12.91
Switzerland Fr	2.527	2.309
Turkey Lira	617989	576913
USA $	1.709	1.566

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Swallow rejects fresh plan for management buyout

SWALLOW GROUP yesterday rejected a last-ditch attempt by Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalist, to rescue a management buyout of its two breweries and a package of tenanted pubs.

Peter Catesby, chief executive of Swallow, said the fresh proposals were "totally unacceptable and would not have offered shareholders adequate value for the assets".

He added: "We do not propose to pursue further discussions with Alchemy on this basis."

He was responding to a letter from Alchemy to Swallow on Wednesday night outlining three options for reviving the negotiations. Talks collapsed last week, prompting the resignation of Sir Paul Nicholson, the Swallow chairman.

Two of the options involved a cut in the original £63 million offer price, offset by a reduced supply agreement. "Both diminished the value to us," Mr Catesby said. The third option was an indicative offer of £125 million, incorporating Vaux Breweries, together with the entire estate of 650 tenancies rather than just the 350 originally put up for sale by the company in September.

This compares with a book value of £144.7 million, of which the pubs account for £100.4 million. Mr Catesby added: "It is our view that the 650 tenanted pubs would, if we were to put them on the open market without a tie, fetch £130 million. So there is no value in us considering this."

Jon Moulton, managing partner of Alchemy, said he was disappointed with the Swallow board's reaction and furious at learning of its response by press release. "They didn't bother to contact us," he said. "It's an awful shame, because there is an economically sensible solution which would have saved a lot of jobs."

A source close to Alchemy went further in its criticism of Swallow: "They couldn't organise the proverbial in a brewery, which is probably why they's closing them!"

Mr Moulton conceded that a deal was now dead and, unless any new buyer emerges, a total of 620 staff will next week receive redundancy notices, 520 of them at the Sunderland brewery. The breweries are due to close on July 2.

Swallow is now considering alternative ways of selling the assets and analysts believe it may make them more attractive by including all 650 tenancies. The parties interested in its Sheffield brewery and 100 or so related pubs are Hardys & Hansons, the Nottingham brewer, and Mansfield Brewery. Pubmaster, the tenanted pub operator, is thought to be eyeing most of the pubs.

Cammell Laird shuts shipyard

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

CAMMELL LAIRD'S South Shields shipyard closed yesterday after the engineering group decided that it needed too much money for repairs and renovation.

The closure — which took immediate effect — came after a review of the group's North-East operations.

Brett Martin, the deputy chief executive, said: "South Shields suffers from limited facilities and environmental restrictions and would require several million pounds of remedial work on both the dry docks and the quayside jetties. Sadly, we had to conclude that this would not be cost-effective when weighed against creating extra capacity, better facilities and ultimately better employment prospects at the larger yards."

Cammell Laird is to transfer all South Shields' apprentices and to try to find work for its other workers. The closure of South Shields came the day after the group won a £10 million order to convert a grain ship into a hospital ship. That work will be done at its Tyneside yard. Cammell Laird began reviewing its North-East sites after buying ALB, the docks company, last year.

Engineer studies US approach

BY ADAM JONES

POWERSCREEN International, the Northern Ireland engineer whose shares have leapt 42 per cent since it announced on Wednesday that it is a takeover target, is mulling over a bid proposal from a US buyer.

Although Powerscreen refused to comment in detail, it is thought that its suitor may be John Deere, a tractormaker that has already bought assets from Powerscreen. Industry sources say the suitor is not a management buyout team.

Powerscreen is in play after accounting irregularities led to the collapse of its share price last year. After the irregularities, which are the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation, the top three executives were replaced and assets were sold to reduce debt.

The Powerscreen board has received a cash proposal that it sees as serious. The approach is not thought to involve Sean Quinn, a businessman based in Northern Ireland whose business is Powerscreen's biggest single shareholder. Mr Quinn is a friend of Shay McKeown, Powerscreen's former chief executive, who left after the irregularities were found.

Yahoo! in $5.7bn purchase

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

YAHOO!, the Internet search engine, moved to expand its reach yesterday with the $5.7 billion (£3.5 billion) purchase of Broadcast.com.

The purchase of the Internet audio and video broadcaster is an attempt by Yahoo! to become a one-stop-site for users of the Web. Broadcast.com recently aired a live Webcast of a Victoria's Secret lingerie show, while it also broadcasts sport, press conferences, news and music.

Broadcast.com shareholders will be paid with shares in Yahoo!. Although the deal values Broadcast.com at $5.7 billion, the company has not made a profit since it was founded in 1995. Yahoo! will pay $4.7 billion for the company's common stock and a further $900 million for outstanding options.

The merger is the second this year by Yahoo! In January, Yahoo! bought GeoCities to snare its 3.5 million members and personal Web site service.

The combined companies will have a market capitalisation of about $40 billion.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BNP takeover will cost 6,000 jobs

BNP will axe about 6,000 jobs over four years under its plans to take over Paribas and Société Générale, equivalent to 10 per cent of the workforce. The job cuts will be implemented across the entire merged group. BNP made a hostile bid for Société Générale and Paribas, after Société Générale rebuffed it as a suitor at the eleventh hour in favour of merger with Paribas. The French regulators earlier this week gave the green light to the three-way merger and urged the banks to sort out their differences.

Baudouin Prot, BNP director-general, who was in London yesterday, claimed his bank's bid was by far the best option for Société Générale and Paribas. He pointed to the bank's own track record on increasing returns on equity. Over the past five years, BNP's return on equity has risen from 2.2 per cent to 11.8 per cent. Under the three-way merger plan, Mr Prot wants to raise this figure to 16 per cent through a system of cost-cutting and growth. The boards of Société Générale and Paribas are to meet next Tuesday to discuss the BNP bid.

Commentary, page 31, City Diary, page 33

Equitable challenge

AN ACTION group representing 1,500 Equitable Life investors has filed a writ against the insurer to widen the scope of a test case over guaranteed annuities being brought to the High Court in July. The Equitable Life Guaranteed Annuity Action Group is fighting Equitable's decision to cut the terminal bonuses of investors who choose to exercise options in their pension policies allowing them to take a retirement income 25 per cent higher than they would get from a conventional annuity today. Equitable is calculated to face a £1 billion bill.

Japan tackles bad loans

JAPAN yesterday launched a new institution to recover banks' bad loans, in what could be an important step towards repairing its battered financial system. The new government-backed body, the Resolution and Collection Corp, is modelled on America's Resolution Trust Corp, which helped to clean up the savings and loan fiasco of the 1980s. The RCC will buy problem loans from banks and then try to sell the collateral, mostly land, to recover as much money as possible. Japan's land prices fell for the eighth consecutive year in 1998.

UK oil revenue down

RISING North Sea oil prices came too late to avert a fall in revenues from UK oil and gas production in February. According to monthly data from the Royal Bank of Scotland's oil and gas index, oil revenues were down 9.4 per cent on the previous month and gas revenues were down by an estimated 3.9 per cent. The value of combined oil and gas production fell by an estimated 6.6 per cent on the month, to £40.5 million a day. The average price of the benchmark Brent crude was $10.20 a barrel, down 27.5 per cent on February 1998.

Skillsgroup reshapes

SKILLSGROUP yesterday continued its transformation from a computer reseller into a pure IT services group through the £32.5 million acquisition of Cap Gemini's British training division. After the deal, about 60 per cent of the group's revenues will come from services such as training, consultancy and recruitment. The remainder will come from upmarket computer reselling and related services. Skillsgroup shares rose 6 per cent yesterday to 323p, compared with 158p in November.

Tempus, page 32

King World for CBS

CBS, owner of the US television network, yesterday paid $2.5 billion (£1.5 billion) for the King World production company, whose programmes include the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. The deal gives CBS access to King World's stable of talk and entertainment shows, and to the $1 billion in cash hoarded by its founders, the brothers Michael and Roger King. The brothers will retain their jobs heading the syndication company when it becomes an arm of CBS. Profits from the *Oprah Winfrey Show* are about 40 per cent of King World's income.

Scats buys export unit

THE Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society (Scats) is taking over Continental Grain's UK grain export business and assets for an undisclosed sum, it was announced yesterday. Scats will get Continental's Southampton deep water grain export facilities plus animal feedstuffs and fertiliser import facilities. Grain exports through the port of Southampton average more than 850,000 tonnes a year. The acquisition follows last year's takeover of Continental Grain's worldwide operations by Cargill, the agrifood concern that is America's largest private company.

Raphael's grim picture

SHARES of Raphael Zorn Hemsley fell 27p to 65p yesterday after the UK corporate finance advisory group said that because of poor market conditions in the insurance sector first-half profits would be well below expectations. The group, which deals in corporate finance, market-making and institutional stockbroking, claimed that its profits had been hit by the downturn in the general insurance sector, particularly in corporate finance. The company, which floated on AIM in 1996, made £1.3 million in the first half, last year.

Banner voices fears

BANNER CHEMICALS, the group formerly known as Sutcliffe Speakman, yesterday gave warning that it does not foresee any improvement in its sector until "the end of the fourth quarter". The announcement follows a profits warning in January. Stuart Lloyd, chairman and chief executive, has agreed to stand down as part of cost-cutting arrangements. His departure from the board is said to be "totally amicable". Banner currently has no borrowings and net assets of £7.5 million. The shares fell ¼p to 8¼p.

Scotia founder raises £8.5m in share sale

BY PAUL DURMAN

DAVID HORROBIN, the controversial founder of Scotia Holdings, has raised an estimated £8.5 million by selling almost all his remaining 11.1 per cent stake in the drug development company.

The sale came only two days after Rob Dow, Scotia's chief executive, savagely criticised the state of the company and the development work that he took over from Dr Horrobin.

Dr Horrobin was forced out last May after a boardroom battle to seize back control from Dr Dow. Even before yesterday's sale, he had sold about £5 million of shares since September.

Perpetual, the fund management group, acquired 5.25 million of the shares owned by Dr Horrobin's Wimberley Investments, paying just over 100p a share. Nomura International placed another 3.35 million shares with other institutions. Perpetual, a big shareholder in the troubled British Biotech, is now Scotia's biggest investor, with an 11.35 per cent stake.

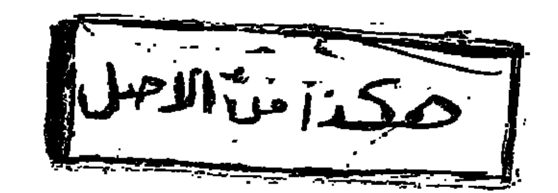
Dr Horrobin is expected to use some of the money raised to finance Laxdale, his new company, which is thought to include some projects that he acquired from Scotia.

The sale of Dr Horrobin's stake removes the overhang that has contributed to the weakness of Scotia's share price over the past year. Yesterday the shares were 1p off at 101½p, down from a high last year of 387½p.

Dr Horrobin has many scientific papers to his name, but could not gain regulatory approval for Scotia's seemingly promising products.



Horrobin: criticised



C&W finds holes in its net

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Are we about to see a *cause célèbre* that could prick the Internet bubble? If Cable & Wireless gets to court with its lawsuit against MCI, it could certainly prove a long and painful exercise for more than the direct participants.

MCI turned itself into America's number two long distance telephone carrier on the strength of its notoriously sharp wits. The group has been caricatured as a law firm with an antenna on top. You do not lightly volunteer to get into a legal battle with so formidable an opponent.

News of the lawsuit pushed Cable & Wireless shares down 3 per cent as investors took refuge in C&W Communications, the UK offshoot. Clearly, traders mused, something has gone wrong with the wholesale and retail Internet business that C&W bought from MCI for £1.1 billion little more than six months ago.

At the best of times, it is hard for any board to allow that it might have been sold a pup. Indeed, the only time this is likely to occur is when the top team changes. Graham Wallace is suing over a deal done under former C&W chief Dick Brown, the dynamic American who has since repatriated himself.

Even so, it is a double-edged sword. C&W was generally thought to have established a leading position in Internet networks at modest costs because MCI was a forced seller. In order to be allowed to merge with WorldCom, whose UUNet is the market number one, MCI had to divest its number two business.

In the highly coloured language of its writ, however, C&W claims that MCI tried to woo away its customers, denied access to customer contracts, held back key staff and generally made life hard. As a result, growth rates of 50-100 per cent collapsed to "far short of the rate at which the market is growing as a whole", tens of million of revenue were lost and costs rose.

As yet, it is not clear whether this is a conventional contract spat in over-the-top American legalese or something that will inflict serious permanent damage on the business. Even after a change of management, the company is understandably not inclined to play up the import of its row to a home audience.

The significance, perhaps, is to show how fragile the Internet business can be. Growth rates are now so high that everyone can have a share. Turning that business growth into revenue and revenue into profit remains uncharted territory.

C&W's row with MCI WorldCom is a reminder that business can just as easily be taken away, that it may not be hard for new entrants to cannibalise the market and the conditions do not yet exist to eliminate enough low-overhead competition to establish the profit margins that share prices already anticipate.

Not being an Internet stock may be the mark of a dinosaur in retail, telecoms and financial services. Being an Internet stock is no guarantee of fortune.

French bank on money and flag

French bankers are only too aware that the eyes of the financial world will be on them next week. Boards of Société Générale and Paribas must decide whether to go along with an unprecedentedly hostile bid for both of them by Banque Nationale de Paris.

The spurned earlier suitor of SocGen has already outflanked the substitute merger arranged by the other two. While that merger led to a fall in the combined share prices, BNP's hostile revenge has boosted all three.

The reason is simple. Putting SocGen and BNP together gives scope for massive cost-cutting, including phasing out at least 6,000 jobs in France alone. And BNP has shown it is able to cut costs. By trimming the cost ratio, it has become the most profitable of the big French groups, even if that only raises it to the standing of the Swiss.

Paribas is in different businesses such as consumer credit, investment banking and insurance. A merger of either of the high street banks with Paribas is more creative, making the framework for a universal bank on the German pattern. But it does not, of itself, save costs.

Inevitably, euro politics have intervened. The French Government, at least, appears to believe that it would be a great coup for France to create the world's biggest bank in terms of assets. The SocGen/Paribas deal was immediately wrapped in the Tricolour at the Elysée. Now the Governor of the Bank of France has virtually instructed the two would-be victims to talk turkey with BNP in the wider national interest.

Abroad, BNP has been cast as the agent of French financial *gloire* and the top national priority of keeping out the Germans. At home, however, things look different. By going to the markets rather than relying on the *smoke-filled rooms*, this vigorous reinvention of a former moribund state bank has been cast as the Anglo-Saxon barbarian, interfering with the normal civilised French way of doing things.

BNP top brass are not unhappy with this. A generation after Lloyds's Sir Brian Pitman, they extol the need to chase shareholder value and to change the old ways of doing things.

At least that provides a figleaf for the creation of national monopolies in Belgium, Italy, Spain and France that passes for restructuring to compete in the single market of euroland.

In the words of BNP's Baudouin Prot, "When the flag and money point the same way, it is hard to go the other way". Quite.

That man Ashcroft is back again

It is hard not to have a sneaking admiration for Michael Ashcroft's utter disregard for his reputation as "the controversial tycoon". If he had any concern at all for losing that tag, he would not be plunging so wholeheartedly into the mess at Corporate Services Group.

CSG, the employment and training group that owns what became of Blue Arrow, had already roused the City's ire with two poorly explained profit warnings in the space of three weeks. The finance director seems to have become an enemy in his own boardroom, prompting a shareholder attempt to throw out his chairman.

Just to liven things up further, Mr Ashcroft has pitched in a mind-bogglingly complex takeover proposal from a company that has yet to be formed. Investors are offered the tantalising prospect of taking paper in an Aim-listed company controlled by Mr Ashcroft and some cash.

The amount will fluctuate with the share price of an unrelated American company — unrelated, that is, except that Mr Ashcroft wants to sell some of his Tyco shares. And just for good measure, one of the main conditions of the offer flatly contradicts the board changes being sought by Schroders, Mercury and others.

Mr Ashcroft clearly thinks he can make a killing from CSG, but, to spice things up, has chosen to thumb his nose at almost the entire City while he does so. With so many players involved, this one is set to run and run.

Vacant hot seat

ONE more deadline has passed without a new Director-General being chosen to head the World Trade Organisation. Thailand's foreign minister and an ex-New Zealand prime minister are deadlocked. Even the EU's votes are split. The trouble is that only a diplomatic conciliator is likely to become a consensus candidate, but a tough leader is needed to bang some over-powerful heads together if a trade war some time in the next few years is to be avoided. Perhaps somebody should threaten trade sanctions.

Hanson buys second largest US brickmaker

By Adam Jones

HANSON, the building materials group, is buying the second-biggest brickmaker in America as part of its transatlantic expansion plan.

Hanson, which emerged from the break-up of the multinational empire created by Lord Hanson and Lord White, is buying the North American brick arm of Jannock, a Canadian company, for £160 million in cash on a debt-free basis.

Jannock made an operating profit of £20.4 million last year, on sales of £120.1 million. It draws 70 per cent of its sales from the US market. The remainder comes from Canada, where it has a 70 per cent market share in Quebec and Ontario.

Hanson shares have risen strongly from 305p last September on the back of a buoyant US market, which helped overcome fears about the state of UK housebuilding and construction, where fears of slowing domestic growth or even recession had damaged investor sentiment. Yesterday, after the Jannock deal was announced, the shares fell to 535½p, down 20p, by close of trading.

Nearly £17 million of the purchase price will be paid only when plans for a new brickmaking plant in Ontario are approved. Completion of the purchase is anticipated in the second quarter of this year.

A Hanson spokesman said the group will continue to consider bolt-on acquisitions for Jannock, which is its first venture into US brickmaking.

Hanson's UK brickmaking arm, which is the second-biggest in the country, has an operating margin of about 25 per cent, the spokesman said, compared with 17 per cent at Jannock.

He said Hanson's succesful cost and pricing control systems, which are in the latter stages of being introduced into its US aggregates businesses, will be implemented at Jannock. The spokesman said there would also be focused investment, in areas such as kiln controls, to increase profits. However, it is unlikely that there will be purchasing benefits to be gained from Hanson's new bulk in the brickmaking market.

Andrew Dougal, chief executive, said: "The inclusion of the Canadian operations is consistent with our objective of gradually widening our geographic presence into a limited number of new areas outside our primary markets of the US and the UK."

TV deal and new chief for Scoot

SCOOT.COM, the loss-making *Yellow Pages* rival, yesterday announced the appointment of a new managing director and a digital TV deal with Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC), the cable group (Chris Ayres writes).

Jon Molyneux, 40, will join Scoot.com from the UK division of Apple Computers, where he was managing director for three years. He replaces Martin Keogh, who becomes chief interactive and channel partnerships officer.

Scoot, which last year reported losses of £27 million (£15 million), is to develop and supply digital interactive TV services for CWC. Scoot shares were unchanged at 30p. Tempus, page 32

Inchcape sells in Middle East

By Paul Armstrong

INCHCAPE has taken another step in its transition from a trading group to a vehicle distributor, with the sale of its marketing operations in the Middle East for $116 million (£72.5 million).

The sale brings the amount raised from Inchcape's asset disposal programme to £618 million since March last year.

This is expected to result in a one-off payment to shareholders of about £1 a share, in line with Inchcape's promise to distribute the proceeds.

The sale of the Middle East marketing business, which was bought by Cupola Investments, a *Dubai-based* development capital group, leaves the company with only its Asia-Pacific office automation business to sell as part of the rationalisation process.

Inchcape said yesterday it expects this to be sold by June. It has already sold bottling businesses in Russia and South America, marketing operations in the Asia-Pacific region and its shipping services group.

The asset sales are aimed at leaving Inchcape with only its international vehicle distribution division, that provided 67 per cent of the company's operating profit last year.

This business has exclusive distribution agreements with manufacturers, including Toyota and Mazda, in 30 countries. Inchcape shares closed 3p higher yesterday at 145p.

The way ahead, page 33

TT Group poised to raise stakes

TT GROUP said yesterday it was ready to increase its hostile takeover bid for Hall Engineering after John Sword, Hall's chief executive, unveiled an £82.8 million management buyout (Paul Armstrong writes).

The buyout, backed by Candover Partners, the venture capital group, has made a recommended offer of 155p a share. This compares with TT's existing offer of 136p. Hall shares closed 14½p higher yesterday at 155p.

Mr Sword said yesterday that the MBO offer had secured acceptances representing 52 per cent of Hall's shares.

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

FTSE fails to hold onto lead as books squared

SHARE prices raced to a record high, just one point short of hitting 6,400, before falling to close well below their best of the day.

Wall Street opened on a high note but, by the time the London market closed, the Dow Jones industrial average was beating a hasty retreat after publication of the latest US purchasing managers' survey.

At its best the FTSE 100 index hit a peak of 6,399.1 with a rise of 103 points. But by the close that lead had been whittled away for the index to finish 34.7 up at 6,330.0. The figure at the close was just 5.7 points below its best closing level, hit three weeks ago. The rise on a shortened week was 190.8.

By contrast, the FTSE 250 index finished 21.9 down at 5,453.3 as total turnover reached 1.19 billion.

Once again, early sentiment was dominated by the current spate of mergers. **BP Amoco**, down 39p at £10.09½, fanned the flames by confirming its *$27 billion (£17 billion)* merger with Atlantic Richfield.

Yesterday also marked the end of the first quarter as well as the end of the financial year. The session was taken up with window dressing by both institutional investors and traders eager to square their book positions.

Private investors were able to finish off opening extra personal equity plans before the introduction of the Isa. Once this had been completed, it was time for the profit-takers to move and cream some off the top.

But with hopes riding of another cut in interest rates next week when the Monetary Policy Committee meets, selling pressure is likely to be limited.

The extent of the market's volatility was clearly reflected in the movements of leading shares. **Glaxo Wellcome** touched £22 fuelled by suggestions that merger talks with Bristol-Myers Squibb, the US drugs company, might be resumed. The price later settled 82p higher at £21.58.

Zeneca continued to benefit from a large buying order carried out earlier this week by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. The shares finished 109p up at £30.37 as 31.5 million shares changed hands.

EMI Group responded to news of stakebuilding in its shares with a rise of 17½p to 459½p. Putnam Investments has picked up 26.16 million shares, or 3.32 per cent of the music publisher. A total of 7.47 million shares were traded.



Patrick Pearce, Country Gardens finance director, saw shares blossom, helped by forecasts of warm weather over Easter

News of stakebuilding was also behind a rise of 22½p to 252½p in **Cambridge Water**. Its bigger rival, **Anglian Water**, down 8p at 752½p, has bought a near 10 per cent stake, or 652,338 shares.

The mobile-phone operators were wanted ahead of what is expected to be another set of buoyant subscriber numbers next week. Credit Lyonnais Securities, the broker, expects **Vodafone**, up 31p at £11.82, to have achieved 700,000 new subscribers with **Orange**, 27½p dearer at 894p, (335,000), and **Cellnet** 350,000. Cellnet is owned jointly by **British Telecom**, up 17p at £10.28, and **Securicor**, 22½p higher at 568p.

Telewest advanced 8¼p to 277¼p with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the US securities house, issuing a "strong buy" rating and setting a target price of 350p.

Takeover favourite **Pilkington** ran into profit-taking, finishing 6p lower at 76½p as St Gobain, the French glassmaker, denied suggestions it was prepared to bid. Earlier reports claimed it was ready to offer 100p a share for Britain's biggest glassmaker, which has seen its price collapse from a peak of 148p last year.

The agreed bid for Hall Engineering, up 14½p at 155p, by Acertec came after the close of trading. It values Hall at £82.8 million. Rival bidder TT Group, unmoved at 176½p, is now considering whether to raise its offer. If it decides against such a move, watch Silvermines, down ¼p at 25p, where it holds a small stake.

Charles Bauer, the deputy chairman, has unloaded 293,115 shares in Amvescap at 635p. It reduces his total holding to 46.8 million, or almost 7 per cent. **Amvescap** eased 7½p to 619p.

Scottish & Southern Energy firmed 1½p to 561½p as David Payne, a director, picked up 3,000 shares at 572¼p. He now holds 5,000 shares.

Share-buying by one director helped to lift **Brooks Service Group** 3p to 111p. Patrick Mulcahy, finance director, has bought 30,000 shares at 110p. The group has appointed Rowan Dartington as house broker.

Linden held steady at 180p after Lou Jovic, finance director, sold 28,000 shares at 178p. He continues to hold 142,300, or less than 1 per cent of the total. But **XKO** firmed 1p to 159p as John Gardner, a director, bought 20,000 shares at 158p.

Powerscreen touched 163½p as the group continued to draw strength from this week's bid approach. But the profit-takers moved in, leaving the price 3p softer at 146½p. **IOC International** also added 14½p at 86½p after agreeing the terms of a bid with SDL on Wednesday.

It looks as if **AEA Technology** has fallen far enough, for the time being. The price rallied 2½p to 346p on the back of news that the group has linked up with Cadcentre Group to develop their 3D technology and client base. HSBC Securities, the broker, says the shares are a "buy" and has set a target price of 410p, while Merrill Lynch has upgraded from "reduce" to "neutral".

The warm weather that has been forecast over the Easter holidays should be good news for **Country Gardens**. Its shares blossomed 10¼p at 248p as investors pinned their hopes on the garden centre operator enjoying a boom time at its check-outs.

Coffee Republic touched 13½p before reverting back to all-square at 12½p. The group has linked up with Waterstones, the bookseller, and is to install its own coffee points at each of Waterstones' new stores.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London lost an early mark-up as US treasury bonds turned easier on the back of the Purchasing Managers Index and ahead of today's employment numbers.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 36p down at £116.98, while among conventional issues Treasury 9 per cent 2008 shed 40p at £133.44.

□ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips hovered in a narrow, flat range in late morning trade as Internet shares rallied. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 29.42 at 9,815.58.

□ Owing to technical problems at our supplier the recent issues refer to Wednesday's prices.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Price	Change	
Marks & Spencer	405½p	+26½p	Job losses
Selfridges	253p	+24p	Better than expected profits
Glaxo Wellcome	£21.58	+262p	Merger speculation
BP Amoco	£10.09½p	-28p	Merger talks
ICI	550½p	+23p	Awaiting disposal news
AEA Technology	346p	-23½p	Recent profits warning
Emap	£12.35	-69p	Brokers' downgrading
Premier Farnell	207½p	+13½p	Brokers' recommendation
Stanley Leisure	273½p	-28½p	Profits warning

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	9815.58 (+29.42)
S&P Composite	1289.87 (+3.50)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	16327.56 (-490.94)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11072.98 (+130.78)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	533.63 (-3.30)

Sydney:

AO	2973.4 (+6.2)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4914.59 (+30.39)

Singapore:

Straits	1545.19 (+25.88)

Brussels:

BEL20	3268.12 (+16.67)

Paris:

CAC-40	4229.85 (+31.97)

Zurich:

SMI Index	7132.4 (+2.2)

London:

FT 30	3838.8 (+34.7)
FTSE 100	6330.0 (+34.7)
FTSE 250	5453.3 (-21.9)
FTSE 350	3003.2 (+12.0)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2930.87 (+10.81)
FTSE All-Share	2906.22 (+11.43)
FTSE Non Financials	2939.92 (+11.43)
FTSE Fixed Interest	153.82 (+0.06)
FTSE Govt Secs	113.22 (-0.14)
Bargains	111334
SEAQ Volume	1196.0m
US$	1.6050 (-0.0088)
Euro	0.6737 (-0.0048)
£ SDR	1.1868
Exchange Index	102.2 (-0.7)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

RPI	163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Axon Group	272½	+ 1
BGI Endowment III	99½	...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	107½	+ 2
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	25	− ½
Canary Wharf (WI)	331½	− ½
Enhanced Zero Trust	100½	...
Gander Properties	7¼	...
Gartmore High Income	107	+ 1
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	106¾	
Govett Enhanced Dv Pf	102¼	+ ¼
Govett Enhanced Inc	94	..
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108	
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	102	+ ¾
Luminar Warrants	255	+ 5
M Currie Cap Return	75½	...
M Currie Portfolio	79½	− ¼
Morse Holdings	244	.
Murray Global Return B Uts	185	...
Murray Global Return Prf	102¼	.
Murray Global Return Units	184½	...
NBA Quantum	110	
Sports Internet	149½	+ 6

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Tech Cnv Prf n/p (320)	28	...
Holmes Place n/p (275)	17½	− 1½
Waste Recycling n/p (406)	45	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Corp Services	94½	+ 21	+ 28.5
IOC Intl	86½	+ 14½	+ 20.1
Rolfe & Nolan	227½	+ 27½	+ 13.7
Internet Tech	170½	+ 20½	+ 13.6
Easynet	470	+ 54½	+ 13.1
Hall Eng	155	+ 14½	+ 10.3
Character Grp	345	+ 31½	+ 10.0
Acorn	217½	+ 17½	+ 8.7
Fuji Bank Y	397¾	+ 31	+ 8.4
McCarthy & S	196	+ 14½	+ 7.9
Hamleys	160	+ 11	+ 7.3
JBA Hldgs	169½	+ 10	+ 6.2
Skillsgroup	323	+ 18½	+ 6.0
Independent	287½	+ 15	+ 5.5
Bank Scotland	867½	+ 44½	+ 5.4
Driefontein	252½	+ 12¼	+ 5.0
Allied Zrch	876	+ 41	+ 4.9
Schrod Korea	373¾	+ 17½	+ 4.9

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Blick	197½	− 62½	− 24.0
Elec Retail Sys	85	− 15	− 15.0
Garton Eng	116½	− 11½	− 8.9
Business Post	462½	− 35	− 7.0

TEMPUS

A slick operator

ARCO was a sitting duck for BP. It was highly geared, heavily exposed to oil prices and suffering a collapse in profits. Its dividend is uncovered by earnings and in the absence of an improvement in the oil price the market was expecting a cut in the payout. Hardly suprising, therefore, that its chief executive made a call to Sir John Browne at BP.

It is hardly surprising because the fit between the two companies is so good. The two are already twinned at Prudhoe Bay in Alaska. And the absence of crossover downstream makes the merger almost astonishingly neat. BP claims that not a single Arco petrol station competes with BP Amoco, and that suits both the regulators, and the expansionists at BP.

Despite the inevitable job loss headlines, this deal is less about cost-cutting than a cheap opportunity for BP Amoco to expand worldwide. In Alaska, the two companies have trimmed hard already and Arco has abandoned its glittering downtown LA skyscraper head office, too.

It also enables BP Amoco to increase its exposure to gas — always a sore point for oily BP. Into the bargain BP is getting juicy opportunities, such as Tangguh, the vast gas play in Indonesia. BP Amoco also takes a quantum leap in its share of US refining and marketing. Moreover the jewels are offered on a plate, with no immediate investment requirement. The Arco refineries are top drawer and Tangguh is still on the drawing board.

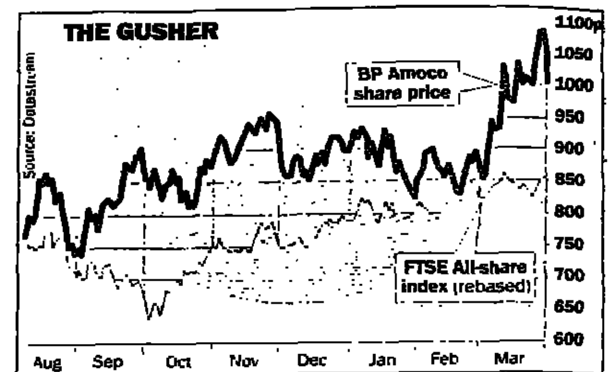
A goodwill write-off of $20 billion (£12 billion) will savage BP Amoco's earnings. But the buyer's ability to use highly rated paper to buy underperforming Arco stock means that the deal will be strongly positive in cashflow terms, the measure that matters.

There is also a risk that Arco investors will sell their BP Amoco shares when the deal is sealed but this will be balanced by UK funds that feel they have no choice but to bite their lips and pay up for pricey BP Amoco, which now represents an astonishing 10 per cent of the FTSE 100.

BP Amoco is the most expensive oil stock around, but for good reason. The oil sector had become as bunged up as a barrel of crude, its organisation bureaucratic, its management elderly and addicted to fringe benefits.

Sir John Browne has created a ruthless, asset-stripping machine that looks, at present, unstoppable. If Shell fails to address its problems quickly, it is not inconceivable it could end up in a BP refinery.

The oil price is helping, too. Do not be short.



Skillsgroup

EIGHTEEN months ago, Skillsgroup (formerly called P&P) was regarded as a "boxshifter"; that is, a company that sold low-margin personal computer hardware.

After a series of corporate disasters, it decided to transform itself by getting rid of its low-margin distribution business and buying into high-margin services companies involved in IT training, consultancy and recruitment.

Yesterday's £32.5 million acquisition of Cap Gemini's UK training business forms the latest part of this strategy, and comes hard on the heels of the company's £34 million acquisition of Pontis Consulting a few weeks ago.

The company reckons that 60 per cent of its revenues now come from "resource management" — IT services such as training, consulting and recruitment. Its remaining revenues come from upmarket computer reselling — a rival to Morse — where margins can be improved by the tying-in of related services. Meanwhile, Skillsgroup has completed the disposal of P&P, its troubled personal computer distribution company.

It has been a swift and impressive turnaround. The company's share price has more than doubled from 158p to yesterday's price of 323p as a result.

The only big worry is over whether the management can cope with such massive change in such a short period of time. That risk, however, appears to be built into the company's share price, which despite the impressive recent advance is still only 20 times earnings forecast for the year ending November 1999.

Given that lower class resellers such as Computacenter are currently meriting this kind of rating, Skillsgroup shares look undervalued.

Buy.

Lloyd's vehicles

THERE is a gaggle of small companies attempting to achieve recognition operating as insurance companies at the Lloyd's market. Their number includes Amlin, Cox Insurance, Euclidian, Kiln, Ockham, SVB, Wellington and Wren and are commonly known as integrated Lloyd's vehicles because they approach Lloyd's as providers of capital backing for insurance risks, and as an underwriter of those risks.

Last summer several Tempus column inches were given over to discussing ILVs. The view held then, that the restructuring of Lloyds was a good enough reason to get involved and own shares in these firms, has increasingly looked wide of the mark.

If the faith that has now ebbed away is to be restored, ILVs will have to demonstrate the ability to deliver consistent profits from underwriting. It will not be enough to earn fabulous returns one year but disappoint the next.

ILVs must also be able to demonstrate this ability by publishing clear numbers for underwriting performances, and publishing them in a way which makes them easily comparable with their peer group. Performance numbers need to be recent and companies need to earn reputations for publishing accurate forecasts for their underwriting performances.

Profit and loss accounts tell little about the value of the shares. Shareholders need instead to look, and be helped to look, for a sustainable underwriting earnings multiple. The sooner the boards are subjected to the discipline of paying progressively improving dividends the better, too.

ILVs have their work cut out to earn investor respect.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA

May	818-817	Jul	933-925
Jul	835-830	Sep	952-940
Sep	855-848	Dec	978-965
Dec	876-870	Mar	1000-990
Mar	897-890		

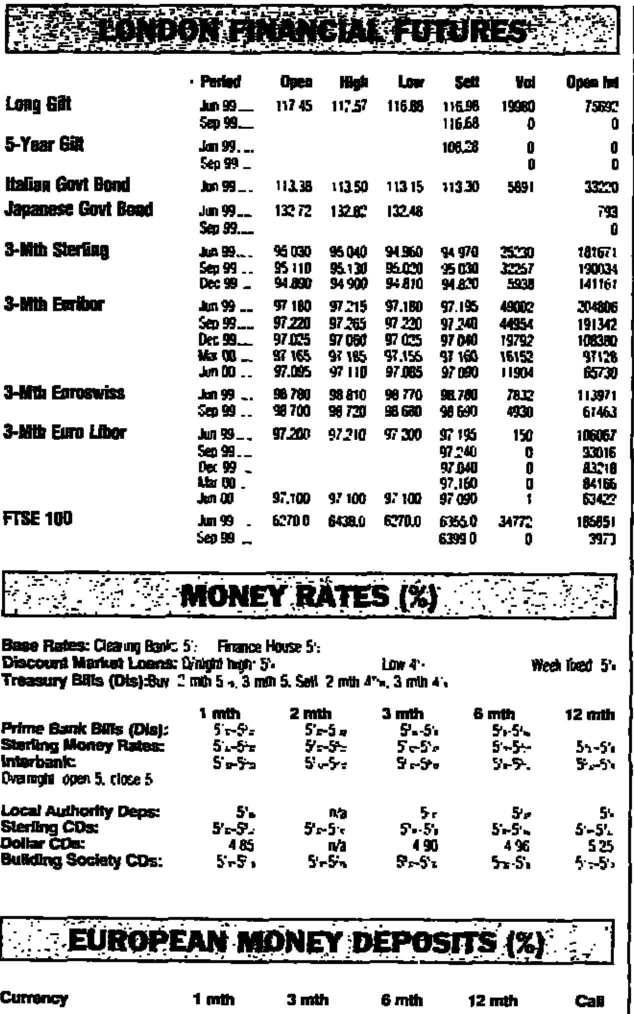
ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) — CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.25	−0.65
Brent 15 day (May)	14.75	−0.35
Brent 15 day (Jun)	14.70	−0.35
W Texas Intermediate (May)	16.50	−0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	16.50	−0.25

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	75.40	May	75.25
Jul	77.20	Sep	74.50
Sep	76.15	Nov	76.50
Nov	78.00	Jan	78.50
Jan	79.90	Mar	80.50

LIFFE OPTIONS



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	117.45	117.57	116.88	116.98	19980	75692
	Sep 99				116.68	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				106.28	0	0
	Sep 99					0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	113.38	113.50	113.15	113.30	5891	33220
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.200	97.210	97.300	97.195	150	106067
	Sep 99				97.240	0	93016
	Dec 99				97.040	0	83218
	Mar 00				97.160	0	84166
	Jun 00	97.100	97.100	97.100	97.090	1	63422
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6270.0	6438.0	6270.0	6355.0	34772	185851
	Sep 99				6399.0	0	3973

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Bank: 5½ Finance House 5½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 4¾ Week fixed 5½

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth 5 [illegible], 3 mth 5. Sell 2 mth 4[illegible], 3 mth 4[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5, close 5

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5[illegible]	n/a	5[illegible]	5[illegible]	5[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.85	n/a	4.90	4.96	5.25
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	5-4[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5[illegible]-5
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]-1	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $280.00-280.40 Close: $280.40-280.90 High: $280.40-280.90 Low: $280.00-280.40 AM: $280.50 PM: $280.55

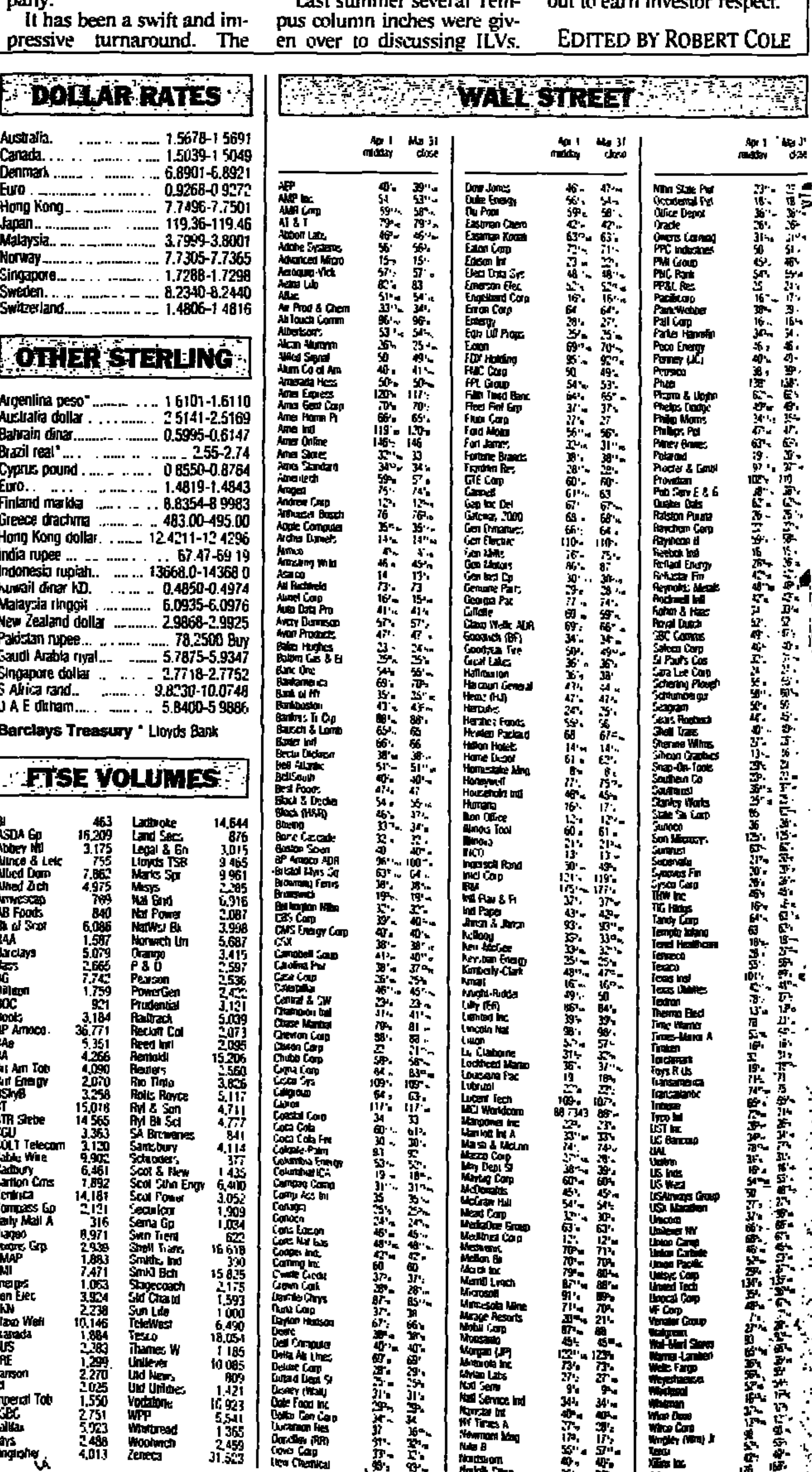
Krugerrand: $281.00-283.00 (£175.00-177.00)

Platinum: $359.00 (£223.75) **Silver:** $5.035 (£3.125) **Palladium:** $349.00 (£217.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 1	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.027-11.150	11.027-11.040	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Euro	1.4835-1.4855	1.4837-1.4853	0.12-0.07ds	0.37-0.40ds
Montreal	2.4090-2.4284	2.4132-2.4163	0.14-0.07pr	0.28-0.15pr
New York	1.6016-1.6116	1.6045-1.6055	0.057-0.037pr	0.100-0.070pr
Oslo	12.376-12.547	12.376-12.393	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	13.180-13.363	13.180-13.204	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	190.81-192.57	191.70-191.98	[illegible]pr	2½-2[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3682-2.3935	2.3682-2.3713	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5678-1.5691
Canada	1.5039-1.5049
Denmark	6.8901-6.8921
Euro	0.9268-0.9272
Hong Kong	7.7496-7.7501
Japan	119.36-119.46
Malaysia	3.7999-3.8001
Norway	7.7305-7.7365
Singapore	1.7288-1.7298
Sweden	8.2340-8.2440
Switzerland	1.4806-1.4816

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6101-1.6110
Australia dollar	2.5141-2.5169
Bahrain dinar	0.5995-0.6147
Brazil real*	2.55-2.74
Cyprus pound	0.8550-0.8764
Euro	1.4819-1.4843
Finland markka	8.8354-8.9983
Greece drachma	483.00-495.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.4211-12.4296
India rupee	67.47-69.19
Indonesia rupiah	13668.0-14368.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4850-0.4974
Malaysia ringgit	6.0935-6.0976
New Zealand dollar	2.9868-2.9925
Pakistan rupee	78.2500 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7875-5.9347
Singapore dollar	2.7718-2.7752
S Africa rand	9.8230-10.0748
U A E dirham	5.8400-5.9886

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	463	Ladbroke	14,644
ASDA Gp	16,209	Land Secs	876
Abbey Ntl	3,175	Legal & Gn	3,015
Allnce & Leic	755	Lloyds TSB	9,465
Allied Dom	7,862	Marks Spr	9,961
Allied Zrch	4,975	Misys	2,285
Amvescap	769	Nat Grid	6,916
AB Foods	840	Nat Power	2,087

WALL STREET

Minimum wage leaves Cassandras out of court

Landmark has finally drowned protests from its detractors, writes **Christine Buckley**

Two million people are now better off. One in 11 of the working population has gained from yesterday's introduction of the national minimum wage — £3.60 for adults and £3 for workers aged between 18 and 21 — with pay increases averaging 30 per cent.

A legally enforceable minimum wage is the end of more than 100 years of campaigning by trade unions and brings the UK into line with many other countries that impose a basic floor on pay levels. But, as in many employment issues, the Government's legislation has left some parties on both sides wailing their dissatisfaction.

Unison, the biggest union, has shifted its campaigning from demanding a minimum wage to calling for a living wage and wants the level lifted to £4.79 — half of male median earnings. The T&G also believes the rate is way too low, arguing that employers should pay a minimum of more than £5.

Some employers, especially smaller companies, and economists have given warning of dire job losses as companies struggle to meet their new commitment. Business Strategies, the economic consultancy, has this week spoken of 80,000 job losses, while Patrick Minford, the right-wing economist, has said that up to 250,000 jobs could go.

Meanwhile, the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry are taking a more pragmatic line. While the TUC is not delighted at the rate and the CBI is not entirely pleased with its existence, both organisations have declared the minimum wage workable.

Industries such as hotels, retailers and services — that are labour intensive — and textiles, which face tough competition from cheap international rivals, will be the hardest hit. The hospitality sector will have to raise the pay of 30 per cent of its workers, while 15 per cent of retail workers are set to benefit.

Many large unionised workplaces will experience no difference after the start of the minimum wage, as the rates agreed already exceed the new starting level. The real effect will be felt by many workers in small businesses, part-time employees and those who work from home. Women workers will gain more than men as they are paid less on average.

However, many companies have pre-empted the launch of the minimum wage with recent pay increases. Interestingly, many are also choosing to pay all their workers at the same rate rather than force younger workers to take the lower statutory rate.

It is the small business world that has made many of the starkest warnings over minimum pay. They complain that pay flexibility is a necessity for the new small business and that their market power is so slight it is impossible to pass on increased costs to their customers. The argument against this is that higher pay will reduce staff turnover which, in itself, is a drain on a business.



Labour-intensive service sectors and retailers will be affected most by the new minimum wage

Some believe that the minimum wage could force some businesses either openly to flout the law or to drift into an informal economy, free from official scrutiny. The minimum wage's police will be some 100 special staff from the Inland Revenue. Their job will be to make sure the country's employers comply with the legislation and to investigate complaints made by workers, either through employment tribunals or to the Department of Trade and Industry's hotline.

The police numbers could be increased if the workload proves too great, but officials are optimistic that the majority of businesses will not break the law. The burden of proof in disputes will be on the employers, who face penalties if they ignore enforcement orders. They will have to pay each employee double the minimum wage per day to each worker for the duration of their defiance of an order. In addition, transgressing businesses will be fined although fines cannot exceed £5,000.

But wrangles over enforcement are likely to be dwarfed by the constant pressure from unions to up the rate.

Unison will hold a series of celebrations today to welcome the minimum wage. Next week it will go back on the offensive with a big rock concert and rally in Newcastle attacking the rate. Organisers are expecting up to 30,000 people and will use the occasion to press home their contention that £3.60 is only a start. Tickets are priced at £3, highlighting the lower level for younger workers. This rate was decided by the Government against the recommendation of the Low Pay Commission, which advocated £3.20. The decision ignited a storm of protest from unions that argued young people should not be paid less than older workers when they faced the same cost of living.

It is likely that the youth rate will be the first part of the minimum wage that is reconsidered in response to the controversy. It had been imposed because of greater fears of unemployment among younger workers. But if these concerns prove unfounded it could be raised before the standard rate is revised.

However, neither move is likely to be quick and Unison may have to hold a good number of rallies before the minimum wage nears its own objective — if it ever does. The Low Pay Commission is due to report to the Government on the impact of the minimum wage by the end of the year. But even then, the Government is unlikely to back a quick rise for fear of appearing hasty. While there has been much speculation about the economic impact of a minimum wage, the reality will only emerge after a prolonged period.

We may well soon see a spate of redundancies being blamed on the minimum wage. Whether or not this is the case, rather than falling markets or poor management or other competitive pressures, will remain to be seen.

Professor George Bain, chairman of the Low Pay Commission, has said that the minimum wage could take up to three years to bed down properly before its true impact can be ascertained.

This is probably a little long, in political terms, to keep the rate pegged at £3.60. Not only will the rate's value have diminished substantially by then, we will have had a general election. It will not harm a Labour Party that is often accused of being too business-friendly by its traditional supporters modestly to raise the minimum rate. The move could easily be explained to employers as merely an attempt to keep pace with inflation.

In doing this, the Government would not even be likely to encounter much opposition from the Conservatives. The party has become increasingly ambivalent towards the minimum wage. A combination of the Tories' new-found interest in the poor, and the realisation that pledging to slash the pay of millions of workers will not win votes, has led to a recent moderation in their stance. Remarkably, John Redwood, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, admitted a couple of weeks ago that the Conservatives would not necessarily dismantle the minimum wage.

The pay regulation that was first promoted amid much protest is clearly seeing some of its high-profile detractors fall away. The Cassandras that warn of high unemployment costs could follow.

NO APPRECIATION SOCIETY

MARCH 2, 1998 — Announces plan to focus on international motors

OCTOBER 5, 1998 — Sells Russian bottling business for £51m

JANUARY 8, 1999 — Sells Asia-Pacific marketing business for £93m

FEBRUARY 1, 1999 — Sells South American bottling business for £457m

FEBRUARY 8, 1999 — Shipping services sold for £47.5m

APRIL 1, 1999 — Sells Middle East marketing business for £72m

Inchcape — FTSE All-share

240 220 200 180 160 140 120 100 80

M A M J J A S O N D J F M

Source: Datastream

Acid test for trading house turned vehicle distributor

Paul Armstrong considers the impact of Inchcape's disposal programme

A year after succumbing to demands from investors to decide where its future lay, Inchcape is about to face the stock market's acid test. For the trading house which was once a well-entrenched member of the London Establishment, this means learning whether its reinvention into a vehicle distributor has been worth the effort.

The sale of Inchcape's office automation business, which it expects to complete within three months, will mark the end of the company's extensive transformation. But, more importantly, it will herald the start of Inchcape's concerted campaign to convince the market that its shares are worth buying — and worth paying considerably more for.

This will be no mean feat. Despite the asset disposal programme, Inchcape will continue to carry the baggage containing its poor perception for some time. It will also need to persuade investors, and this is the hard part, that its shares warrant a higher price earnings multiple than that attributed to most vehicle distribution companies.

The sector's poor popularity is shown by its earnings multiple of seven to eight times. Why a company would set out to be part of it is not much clearer than why anybody would choose to buy a house in Kosovo.

Philip Cushing, chief executive, acknowledges this, but says: "You can't change what you are." Mr Cushing also points out that the alternatives, which were to retain one of the other businesses or remain a conglomerate, were even less attractive.

This is a compelling argument, as is the fact that the sales will fund a one-off payment to shareholders of about £1 a share.

However, the steady flow of asset disposals, which started with the sale of the Russian bottling business in October and has so far generated £618 million, has done little to close the substantial gap between Inchcape's share price and the FTSE all share index.

Inchcape shares were smashed from £2 in August to 91p by October, amid fears about the impact of the Asian crisis on car sales. The stock has since edged its way back to yesterday's close of 145p, although the index has staged a similar recovery.

Analysts say the fact that Inchcape is yet to be paid for the £457 million sale of its South American bottling business is a key reason for the market's reluctance to embrace the process. The other negative factor lies in the deteriorating outlook for vehicle sales in most markets this year, particularly the UK.

But having accepted its lot in life, Inchcape can at least start selling its merits to the investment community knowing that its business is now probably simpler and easier to understand than ever.

There is nothing too complicated about the activities of Inchcape Mk II. It has exclusive distribution agreements with several manufacturers, including Toyota, Mazda, Chrysler and Ferrari, covering 30 countries.

UK sales generate about one-third of the distributorship's profit, with Europe and Asia providing much of the rest. However, Inchcape is also selling an increasing number of cars in South America, the Middle East and Africa.

Those who see limited investment value in distribution companies argue that many of the prospects for organic growth are in the hands of those making the products and that acquisitions present the best chances to lift the bottom line.

But Mr Cushing rejects the assertion, saying advertising and after-sales service are just two ways in which vehicle distributors have a big impact on sales. He also points out that there are few, if any, significant acquisition opportunities for Inchcape.

Mr Cushing cites figures showing that the markets in which Inchcape operates grew 6 per cent last year. This compares with Inchcape's growth rate of almost 13 per cent.

Inchcape has also joined the rapidly growing line of companies searching for a way to include the Internet in their business. It has formed a joint venture with the US group Auto-By-Tel, under which Inchcape will operate a car purchasing web site similar to the highly successful model employed by its partner in America. Mr Cushing believes there are also bright growth prospects for Inchcape's vehicle finance arm.

In the meantime, Inchcape can start calculating the return to shareholders from the sale programme. Shareholders, for their part, may prefer to delay calculating their own returns from Inchcape.

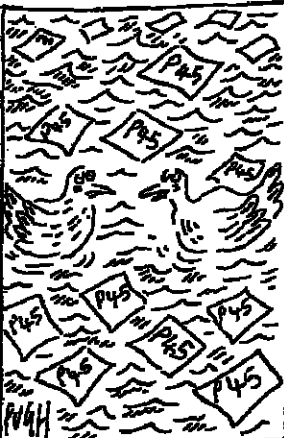
Broker deal



THIS one is hard to believe, but it is true. A futures broker at ING Barings has discovered that it is possible to e-mail Slobodan Milosevic from his Bloomberg trading terminal.

Do I detect a hint of scepticism? Bloomberg has a service that provides profiles of famous people; type in "Who Milosevic" and you get a list that includes a couple of footballers and the Butcher of Belgrade.

You can then e-mail any of those with available addresses, which is what John Macpherson at ING Derivatives did, to Slobodan.Milosevic@gov.yu. His message was: "Give back our boys (the captured US soldiers) or you will regret it". Bloomberg confirms that this is indeed possible, although they seem as surprised as Macpherson himself.



AN APRIL fool from India, and on a more cerebral plane than our own giant chickens or rhinos with measles, I think. The Deccan Chronicle *says India and Pakistan will create a common currency, the IndoPak, by January 2000.*

The pilot agreement was to be be signed yesterday by the two countries' respective Foreign Secretaries, the paper said, in the presence of an adviser from the European Commission. The Commission man, a spoilsport as ever, then reminded readers of the date.

Off the menu

THE un-Gallic hostility surrounding the Banque Nationale de Paris bid for both Société Générale and Paribas becomes easier to understand.

Baudouin Prot, chief operat- [...] BNP says his di- [...] Gen about a possible merger for some time. They arranged a meeting with their counterparts on Saturday, January 30, to finalise this. SocGen cancelled at the last moment.

The BNP directors decided to go ahead with a lunch planned for before the meeting anyway, this being France where lunch is rightly deemed important. They read in that morning's *Le Figaro* that SocGen had instead agreed a merger with Paribas.

"It was a very pleasant and useful lunch, as you may imagine," says Prot dryly.

Drip feed

A READER complains about some autocratic treatment by [...] vate client business. He has been a shareholder in BP for years and has taken advantage of the enhanced dividend offer, which gives you an extra 25 per cent on top if you reinvest your payments in BP shares.

This has had to end, to be replaced by something called a dividend reinvestment plan, or Drip. It works much the same. But Barclays is refusing to offer this to customers, saying they must take cash. As Drips will be increasingly common for tax reasons, I suggest to Barclays they put their house in order.

"It's being looked at, and hopefully we will be able to do something in the next few months," a spokesman soothes.

AT 8.46am yesterday the Reuter screens flashed up a story headed "Glaxo-SmithKline Beecham talks collapse." Analysts were shocked — had the talks started again in secret and then been called off?

It soon became obvious that the news story came from last year. My man at Reuters laughs nervously: "It was a technical glitch."

On yer bike

GORDON BROWN was boosting his green credentials [...] environmentally conscious acts was excluding bikes bought by employers from the list of taxable benefits.

Now, and I am indebted to John Battersby, tax partner at KPMG, for this, someone is worrying about tax evasion, and the benefit is to be limited in the Finance Bill to bikes used for commuting.

It raises the question, how will they check? Battersby himself imagines tax officers riding around on their bikes after us, but I think he has missed the obvious solution. Clearly the Revenue will have to order a huge fleet of gas-guzzlers to police the new dispensation.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Gordon Brown will clamp [...]

Glasgow makes itself a must-have location for top-flight retailers

Sarah Cunningham on openings for top stores in Scotland's shopping boom

There were no soap opera celebrities on hand to cut the ribbon and no free gifts being handed out. There wasn't even a bagpipe to be heard. But when the doors to Buchanan Galleries, Glasgow's newest shopping centre, were thrown open for the first time this week, about 100,000 people passed through in the first few hours.

Although many were looking, rather than buying, a fair proportion of the scrum of people who managed to force their way onto the centre's escalators emerged clutching shopping bags. Even those just looking may well return to spend. The operators of the Galleries were gratified. "There has been a lot of interest," Sandy Cook, chief executive of the Buchanan Partnership, said. "Now we want to see it turned into business."

Buchanan Galleries, valued at £260 million, has 600,000 sq ft of space and 80 shops, including the first branch of the John Lewis department store to open in Glasgow. Alone, the centre will make a huge difference to how people shop in Glasgow. However, it is by no means the only development.

If planning consent is given for all the sites that developers want to turn into shops, a further 500,000 sq ft of retail space will be added in the city centre in the next three years. Moreover, a huge shopping development covering up to 1 million sq ft is due to open five miles outside the city in September.

Capital Shopping Centres is building the Braehead shopping centre on the site of an old power station between Govan and Renfrew, west of Glasgow. After a toughening of planning regulations, it is likely to be the last big regional shopping centre to be built in Britain. It will be firmly mass-market, with large branches of Marks & Spencer, J Sainsbury and Woolworth. Ikea, the Swedish furniture company, may open its second Scottish branch there.

Glasgow's retail developments have been seized on as an opportunity for those English and overseas retailers that are under represented, or even unrepresented, in Scotland to move in. Sainsbury, which has just 12 Scottish branches, will not only be in Braehead with a branch big enough to qualify as a hypermarket, it has also opened its first branch of Sainsbury's Central at Buchanan Galleries. The format is similar to Tesco's successful Metro, and is intended to provide snacks and quick-to-prepare meals for the Galleries' workers and shoppers.

A London-based retailer that flirted with the idea of moving to the Galleries but ended up choosing Edinburgh instead is Harvey Nichols. Mr Cook is none too fond of the upmarket fashion store. By the time it had decided not to come to his Galleries he had already given up and let the space. "I am so glad we did not wait for Harvey Nichols," he says with a shake of the head. The site that Harvey Nichols might have taken is now occupied by the biggest branch of Habitat in Europe, a large Boots and the biggest branch of Next in Scotland.

The deal struck by Harvey Nichols in Edinburgh is reputedly very attractive. It will pay a peppercorn rent to the developers, who will use it as bait to lure other upmarket retailers. Glasgow will not go unchallenged as Scotland's retail capital.

Selfridges is another London department store that is big on high fashion and is branching out into the provinces. Having successfully opened in Manchester, it may yet end up in Glasgow, even though plans for it to open up on the site of the old Buchanan Hotel were pulled.

High fashion *aficionados* in the city are already well catered for by Frasers, the House of Fraser flagship store, which has recently been renovated, and by the smaller fashion stores in Princes Square, which is also being expanded, and in the Italian Centre, which houses Versace, Armani and others. Another new development, next to the Buchanan Galleries, is on the site of the old George Hotel. It will contain a huge Virgin Megastore and some clothing chains.

Among the shops recently opened are branches of Borders and Waterstone's, now two of the largest bookstores in Britain. Indeed, so many very large stores are emerging in Glasgow that you begin to wonder whether it is all going to be economically sustainable. Can Glasweigians spend enough to make these good investments for the developers and the retailers?

Mr Cook is sure that the investments will pay off. "Glaswegians have a relatively high disposable income," he said. "Housing ownership and car ownership are relatively low, and they like to shop and are fashion-concious."

Robert Miller, retail analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, is also confident that it can work. "It really is a thriving city," he said, "and I'm sure there is plenty of scope to increase the amount of spending there."

Rents of about £180 per square foot at the Buchanan Galleries compare very favourably with London, where £400 or £500 per square foot can be paid for top sites. Also, the new developments provide the big stores that retailers now consider essential to show their full ranges. Glasgow looks likely to remain a big draw to retailers, as well as shoppers, for some time to come.

ASHLEY COOMBES

The Buchanan Galleries could be followed by a further 500,000 sq ft of new retail space in Glasgow



The Buchanan Galleries in Glasgow are attracting shoppers — and also retailers lacking outlets in Scotland

Canadian buy for Tomkins

Tomkins, the conglomerate, is to buy ACD Tridon, a windscreen wiper manufacturer based in Canada for C$155 million (£63.3 million). ACD Tridon, part of Devtek, will be bolted on to Tomkins's automotive engineering business.

Tomkins is paying £22.5 million in cash from existing debt facilities and assuming £40.8 million of ACD Tridon's debt. ACD Tridon last year made operating profits of £5.1 million on sales of £121 million.

Garton tumbles

Garton Engineering, the metals group, saw pre-tax profits almost halve to £802,000 last year after what Tim Garton, managing director, called an "extremely poor final quarter" because of an unexpected downturn in UK and export markets. Earnings per share fell to 14.4p, from 30.6p. The final payout falls to 5.25p (5.5p), giving an unchanged 8p total.

Mansfield progress

John Mansfield, the builders' merchant that is an acquisition vehicle for the UK Active Value Fund of Brian Myerson and Julian Treger, reported 1998 losses of £1.7 million, about half 1997's deficit. It said the £1.5 million cost of its unsuccessful bid for Marley has been picked up by Phillips & Drew, the fund manager that subscribed for shares.

Charlton in black

Premiership football has put Charlton Athletic into profit with a threefold rise in interim turnover, to £8 million, on the back of television money and a tripling in sales of season tickets to 17,000. Pre-tax profits for the half year to December 31, after transfer costs, were £1.4 million, against losses of £1.1 million previously.

AFA fundraising

AFA Systems, provider of Musketeer capital markets risk-management software, is raising £4.5 million by a placing of new shares at 90p. It says that it aims to spend the money on marketing Musketeer. The shares rose 3p to 97½p on a cut in 1998 losses to £1.4 million, from £1.8 million.

BUPA suffers £23m loss at core business

By Gavin Lumsden

BUPA, the private health insurer, yesterday blamed a fall in its annual surplus on the Government's tighter fiscal regime for private healthcare and the economic downturn.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman, reported a fall in BUPA's pre-tax surplus to £50 million in 1998 from £55.5 million in 1997.

BUPA's core UK insurance business incurred a £23.2 million loss as a result of an 11 per cent rise in the level of claims.

Edward Lea, finance director, said the increase in claims had been caused by the Government's withdrawal of tax relief on private health insurance premiums for the over-60s.

This had increased the cost of private medical cover for older people and had prompted many to claim on their policies. General economic uncertainty and the threat of job losses also caused a sharp rise in claims from younger people in company healthcare schemes, he said.

Total insurance claims rose to £830.4 million from £773 million, wiping out a £27.3 million increase in premiums to £1 billion.

The company invested £22 million in technology and customer support services, which masked an overall reduction in costs.

Almost 40 per cent of income came from healthcare provision, compared with 27 per cent in 1997, following the acquisition of the care homes of Care First Group, Goldsborough Healthcare and Community Hospitals.

Turnover in the division leaped from £388.6 million to £699.4 million as a result of these purchases. The division also secured a 12-year £108 million contract to manage 15 homes for Bedfordshire County Council.



David Rudd unveiled profits up 30 per cent to £1.2 million

VFG aims to raise £10m

VFG, the broadcast video, film and grip equipment hire and sales company, is raising £10 million by way of an open offer to fund expansion. The placing is to be made on a one-for-ten basis to shareholders at 50p a share (Matthew Barbour writes).

VFG also gave warning that the first half of the current year would produce a "small loss". David Rudd, new executive chairman, said that in the year to end November pre-tax profits rose 30 per cent to £1.2 million on sales up 166 per cent to £14.5 million. The full-year dividend has been set at 1.15p (1p).

PGA sells non-core land

By Matthew Barbour

PGA European Tour Courses, the golf course operator in which Mark McCormack's IMG has a 19.3 per cent stake, yesterday continued its drive to focus on its four flagship courses by selling two blocks of "non-essential" land for £1.5 million.

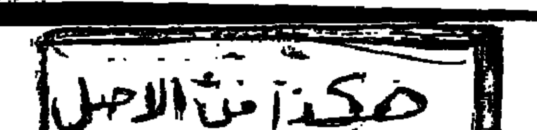
The group, which over the past two years has realised £9.5 million from the sale of non-core assets, said its strategic refocusing on its flagship facilities is now largely completed.

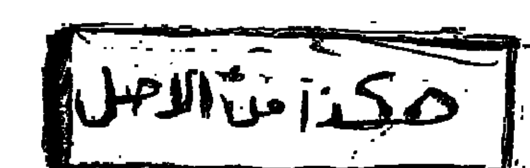
PGA is due to open a third course at its Woburn site next summer as well as a new course at Catalunya, outside Barcelona, in two months' time.

Michael Friend, chief executive, countered recent speculation that PGA is looking to sell off its two smaller Collingtree Park and Stockley Park clubs.

The group reported pre-tax profits for 1998 up 8.5 per cent at £1.3 million (£1.2 million) on turnover down 35 per cent at £6.8 million. Mr Friend said the reduction in turnover reflected the consolidation of the group's operations.

Earnings per share rose to 1.2p (1.0p). There is no dividend.





THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	337.00	357.20	+13.50	0.93
-do- Income Dist	183.80	194.80	+ 4.70	2.53
-do- Accum	632.90	670.80	+16.30	2.53
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.95	50.39†	- 0.17	4.30
Growth Units	407.50	435.40	+18.30	1.08
Bond	203.40	214.40†	- 0.30	5.30
Intl Growth	283.60	301.40	- 0.40	0.11
North American	447.30	474.60	+13.60	
Far East	181.00	193.60	+ 2.40	0.98
UK Smaller Cos	294.20	314.60	+ 1.40	1.08
European	138.10	145.80	+ 3.10	0.14
Japanese Growth	34.59	36.66†	- 1.70	
High Income	315.90	337.60†	- 0.00	2.60
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	382.20	404.60†	+ 2.00	
European Inc	153.30	162.40	+ 2.50	0.47
Smaller Cos (4-1)	120.20	127.90†	- 0.80	1.97
Growth	789.30	839.60†	+36.60	0.94
Income & Growth #	625.40	665.40†	+14.20	4.12
-do- Accum #	1036.40	1102.60	+23.50	4.12
Japan & Gen	61.25	64.73†	+ 1.93	...
Hallmark Gwth	1800.00	1876.00	+56.00	0.87
-do- Accum	2292.00	2388.00	+70.00	0.87
Special Sits	181.60	193.70	+ 6.08	0.97
High Yield	2055.00	2113.00	+46.00	3.49
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	129.02	137.22	+ 3.14	2.13
American Portfolio	206.45	218.56	+ 3.01	0.37
European Portfolio	217.46	231.45	+ 5.29	0.27
High Income	58.75	62.96	+ 0.10	5.87
Japanese Portfolio	57.01	60.26†	- 2.39	
Pacific Portfolio	111.34	119.73	+ 2.08	1.24
UK Equity	129.35	137.83	+ 2.05	2.60
UK Equity & Bd	75.05	79.58	+ 0.86	4.82
UK Smlr Cos	54.59	58.39†	- 0.09	1.96
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1104.81	1121.51	+11.64	3.10
Inv Fd Acc	1187.11	1205.05	+12.51	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	176.03	176.73	- 0.52	7.24
Fxd Int Sec Acc	206.39	207.21	- 0.60	
Property Fund	98.45	101.75	..	6.00
CGU TRUST MGRS LTD				
Srvs/Dlng 0845 6072436 Cust Enq 0845 6072438				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	260.54	271.42†	+ 0.38	4.01
Long Gilt	59.84	62.78†	- 0.24	4.30
Monthly Inc Plus	64.40	67.09†	- 0.21	6.68
-do- Accum	84.07	87.58	+ 0.22	6.68
Preference Share	63.86	66.53†	- 0.68	5.86
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	191.97	199.99†	- 1.47	5.06
Managed Fund	101.77	106.02†	+ 2.05	2.37
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	49.69	51.77†	- 0.69	1.22
-do- Accum	60.60	63.13†	- 0.13	1.22
UK & General	145.24	151.31†	+ 4.57	1.84
-do- Accum	199.09	207.41†	+ 7.58	1.84
UK Growth	293.01	305.25†	+10.85	1.15
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	373.30	388.89†	+ 5.97	
Far Eastern Gth	103.05	107.35†	+ 2.57	0.31
Global Bond	75.07	78.21†	- 0.80	4.90
Japan Growth	99.41	103.56†	+ 3.00	
North Amer Grn	416.35	433.74†	+ 3.26	
Oriental Growth	60.46	62.99†	+ 1.47	1.03
Worldwide Growth	101.33	105.56†	+ 2.22	.
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.44	91.44†	- 2.13	5.10
Homemaker Fund	121.15	128.90†	+ 4.23	1.78
CIM UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 283 5900				
Col Equity	1431.00	1454.00	+22.00	3.02
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	1043.55	1059.33	.	3.30
Investment Acc	5247.47	5326.77		
Fixed Int Inc	144.59	145.17		7.18
Fixed Int Acc	316.00	317.26	.	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
CF Intl Acc	111.83	117.69	+ 0.28	.
City Fin Fd	46.73	50.37	+ 1.61	.
Acorn Ethical Ts	210.60	224.04	+ 2.13	0.32
City Fin Assets	98.59	103.53†	- 1.47	2.01
City Fin Intl	100.25	108.65	+ 3.82	.
Frans Hse Cap	440.18	468.28	- 5.15	1.34
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	43.66	46.32	+ 0.68	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 232				
American Gwth	136.87	145.61†	+ 0.96	.
Dragon Growth	47.05	50.32	+ 1.03	1.14
Equity High Inc #	133.19	140.94†	+ 3.73	3.95
-do- Accum #	208.38	220.50	+ 5.83	3.95
Extra Income Inc	30.69	32.53†	- 0.30	4.70
Extra Income Acc	38.25	40.55†	+ 0.07	4.70
European Gwth	105.38	111.41	+ 2.87	0.08
Evergreen	35.30	37.64†	+ 0.98	0.03
General Equity	159.68	168.53	+ 4.54	2.14
Japan Growth	38.89	41.36	+ 1.25	.
Pedigree Gwth	100.85	106.71	+ 2.55	1.31
Pfd Sm Cos Inc	45.45	48.09	. .	1.54
-do- Accum	49.47	52.34	. .	1.54
Monthly Dist #	37.37	39.75†	+ 0.34	5.45
Special Sits	67.37	72.44	+ 2.06	2.29
UK & Overseas	81.57	86.31	+ 1.84	0.3
COLONIAL FIRST STATE FD MGRS (UK) LTD				
0171 615 5853				
Balanced	95.35	98.32†	+ 2.26	2.46
Capital	118.38	123.31†	+ 3.19	1.34
High Income	60.50	63.02†	+ 0.05	5.88
Top 50	91.43	95.24†	+ 2.89	1.26
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	46.45	49.60†	+ 0.57	2.74
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 356				
Growth	226.50	241.00	+ 6.70	0.95
UK Eqty Inc	97.24	103.45	+ 2.80	3.15
European Growth	120.50	127.80	+ 3.80	...
UK Spec Sits	241.50	256.90†	+ 4.50	1.08
For Co-op Pension see CIM Unit Trust				
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	107.00	113.50	+ 3.20	..
Fellowship Tst	133.30	141.80	+ 1.30	0.94
Income #	400.50	426.00	+12.50	3.27
-do- Accum #	1144.00	1216.80	+36.00	3.27
Smaller Cos	245.80	261.40	+ 1.70	0.43
-do- Accum	309.40	329.10	+ 2.20	0.43
Gilt Portfolio	139.60	148.50	+ 5.00	0.84
Mthly Inc Port #	116.10	123.50	+ 3.20	3.17
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	304.70	314.10		2.77
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers:0171 475 7354 Admin/Val:0870 601 0117				
Amer Smlr Cos	263.54	280.38	+ 5.43	
Bond Income	117.77	122.08†	+ 0.14	5.76
European	294.24	313.02	+ 3.83	...
European Pfn	137.05	145.79	+ 0.25	0.57
European Special	201.18	214.02	+ 1.34	
Gilt Yield	141.49	149.48†	+ 0.61	5.41
Global Eqty Inc	167.20	177.54†	+ 4.57	0.93
High Yield #	239.69	254.98	+ 7.64	2.88
Japan	349.76	372.08	+18.61	
Japanese Special	208.93	221.91	+11.36	
Money Market	108.74	108.74†	+ 0.01	4.04
North American	222.54	236.59	+ 4.44	
Smaller Cos	145.74	155.04	+ 0.83	0.88
UK Index Inc	508.61	511.16	+20.02	2.13
Exempt UK Equity	1100.87	1148.13	+38.58	1.36
Little Dragons	59.48	62.28	+ 0.48	.
Oriental Income #	38.73	40.56†	+ 0.20	1.91
Preference	156.68	164.06†	- 1.17	5.50
Tiger	173.37	181.53	+ 3.42	...
UK Growth	1120.72	1173.52	+51.44	0.60
UK Mid-Cap	524.68	549.40	- 6.23	0.24
UK Smlr Cos	138.67	145.20†	+ 2.04	
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 080 526				
European ‡	95.29		+ 2.49	
Financial ‡	85.33	.	+ 1.80	1.17
UK Growth #	433.80		+13.50	1.73
UK Income #	257.90	†	+ 3.80	3.30
Latin American ‡	22.88		+ 0.84	.
Mgd Gwth Port	117.70	123.00	+ 3.30	0.57
Pacific ‡	59.86		+ 1.07	
Pref High Inc ‡	27.92		- 0.37	7.06
Tokyo ‡	160.20		+ 4.30	
UK Smaller Cos ‡	321.80	. .	+ 6.30	1.09
Japan Sm Cos ‡	343.30	.	+22.40	
Nth Amer ‡	842.70		+ 9.50	
For Ely Place see Sarasin				
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	283.00	301.10	+ 9.70	1.02
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	191.62	199.60	+ 5.78	1.28
Ethical Tst	65.38	68.62	+ 2.08	0.92
Far Eastern	254.19	267.57	+ 7.82	1.49
High Income	196.19	206.46	+ 3.72	3.32
Intl Growth	158.70	167.05†	+ 5.11	1.43
North American	225.80	237.68	+ 3.84	1.41
Pelican	215.25	226.58	+ 7.89	2.07
Smaller Cos	74.29	78.20	- 0.54	2.05
Special Sits	104.13	109.61	+ 2.50	2.21
Tst of Inv Tsts	259.65	273.32	+ 3.63	1.35
UK All Sh In Tk ‡	49.66	...	+ 1.38	2.56
UK Index Tckng	81.59	85.88	+ 3.37	1.78
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	179.63	190.59†	+ 2.24	.
Fd of Inv Tsts	66.46	70.51	+ 0.51	.
High Income #	50.07	53.00†	- 0.93	8.71
Wsn & Gl Opps	70.01	74.28†	+ 0.85	.
Zero Preference	55.44	58.82	- 0.04	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	162.20	172.50†	+ 4.80	1.31
Charities Fd	412.90	439.20†	- 5.70	1.60
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00†	.	5.00
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond ‡	25.96	.	- 0.11	4.69
Income Funds				
High Income ‡	36.71	†	+ 0.59	4.28
Income Plus #	210.40		- 6.70	3.63
Moneybuilder Gwth #	48.67		+ 1.88	2.75
Equity Funds				
ASEAN ‡	4.270		- 39.00	
American ‡	1041.00		+ 7.00	
Amer Spec Sits ‡	374.10		+ 6.40	0.29
European ‡	361.20		- 3.20	0.40
European Opps ‡	140.30		- 1.03	0.18
Global Priv ‡	46.65		- 0.30	1.05
UK Growth ‡	184.90		+ 10.40	2.87
Growth & Inc #	276.50		+ 3.25	0.78
Intl PEP ‡	88.52		+ 5.43	

Shares close below best

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/–	Yld %	P/E
615½	408	Allied Domecq†	461		6.9	10.7
341½	279½	Bulmer (HP)	307½		6.1	11.7
18½	10½	Burn Stewart	11½	+ ½		
742	531½	Diageo†	676	– 20	2.8	16.8
730	550	Glenmorangie A	560		3.2	15.2
266	222½	Highland Dist	233½	+ 1	4.9	11.0
29½	25	Merrydown W	26			

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

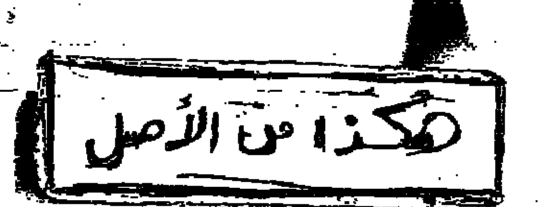
SHORTS (under 5 years)

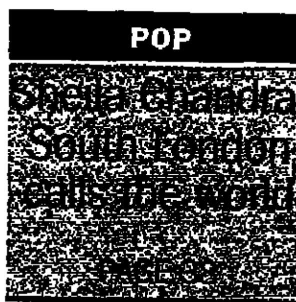
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

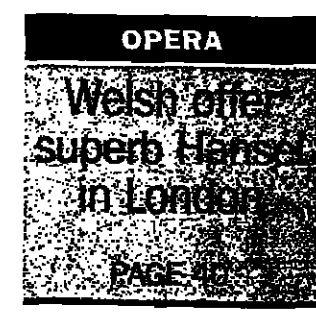




POP

THE TIMES

ARTS

OPERA





Closed ears, closed minds, then open war

At times of turmoil — when bombs are falling, homes burning and innocents fleeing — music can seem like a distraction, a frippery, even an immoral luxury. The inclination to lapse into desolate silence in the face of adversity is nothing new. "By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept," the ancient Israelites lamented. "As for our harps, we hanged them up upon the trees."

What can music do, what has it ever done, to cure a famine, curb a tyrant, or reverse a terrible wrong? Even worse, is music not obscenely indiscriminate in bestowing its favours? Didn't Hitler's butchers often have excellent ears for Mozart? If music be the food of love, what went wrong in so many cases?

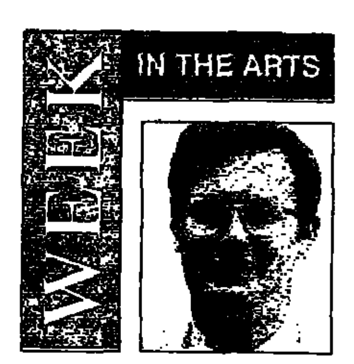
It's hard to counter such bleak rhetorical questions with hard evidence of music, or any art form, as a force for moral good. But there are two points to be made. The first is that the Israelites *didn't* hang up their harps; we wouldn't have the Psalms today if they had done. And neither, 25 centuries later, did their descendants who — when herded by the Nazis into the Theresienstadt concentration camp and sadistically deprived of liberty, possessions, hope and life — responded by creating the most extraordinary operas in musical history.

What gave them the strength? The theories are many, but I think they wanted to show, even as they faced imminent execution, that civilisation is stronger than death, stronger than tyranny, stronger even than the Third Reich. If those brave folk could make such music in such a hell, the onus is surely on us never to let the harps fall silent.

And the second point? It's simply this. Although music itself may be morally neutral, the social act of making music, of learning to understand the other man's tune, of generously giving of one's talents and receiving equally generous applause — that surely remains one of civilisation's most potent weapons in the eternal fight against the dark side of human nature.

These thoughts struck me this week because, while the world and its smartest missiles were being sucked into the ancient racial hatreds of the Balkans, I was also being drawn into a rather more benign meeting of modern Western technology and ancient tribal emotions. For many years (and doubtless with a wry sense of irony) the German state broadcasting company Westdeutscher Rundfunk has been putting together a priceless recording archive of the world's greatest folk singers and instrumentalists — from Senegal to Syria to the Shetlands to Sindh. In the early 1990s the broadcasters did a deal with the World Network record label to make CDs of this stuff, and 49 revelatory discs have now been issued (distributed in Britain by Harmonia Mundi). I have been catching up with the latest batch, and as I eagerly rip each disc out of its packaging my sense of wonder at the variety of human creativity grows ever stronger.

In his great poem *Snow* Louis MacNeice wrote that the "world is crazier and more of it than we think, incorrigibly plural". He felt, he said, "the drunkenness of things being various" — and so did I as I listened to the Japanese shakuhachi master Tajima Tadashi coaxing infinite gradations of tone and emotion from his 18 inches of bamboo; or the astonishing Greek folk clarinettist Petro-Loukas Chalkias cartwheeling through scales that were old when Athens was young.


WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Or young singers such as the Tunisian chanteuse Sonia M'Barek reclaiming — with a potent mixture of scholarship and unbridled passion — at least a few of the haunting *nubats* that all but disappeared from human hearing for five centuries after the Muslims were expelled from Spain in 1492.

Only 25 years ago, when I was a music student, "ethnomusicology" was a dusty cranny of academe — full of strange bods who disappeared, Bartók-like, for months into "the field" with antique tape recorders, and then wrote impenetrable essays on "the migration of the mixolydian mode". Since then, world music has exploded as a commercial force. But with this admirable expansion of popular musical horizons have come doubts about the validity, the "purity" if you like, of what we are being offered.

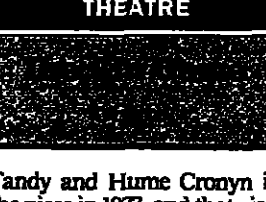
Are all these new stars from Africa, Cuba and Bangladesh genuinely representative of their country's venerable folk idioms, or is their art being tarted up and watered down for Western ears and wallets? Will the future of folk music be nothing but a series of glossy hybrids — more well-meaning albums like *Graceland*, more zippy shows like *Riverdance*, more cultural mishmashes like David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*?

The fears are misplaced. Try to fix any language — verbal or musical — for all time, try to freeze its "purity", and you kill it. Indeed, what strikes one time and again about the World Network CDs is how "impure" these ostensibly ancient folk music traditions are.

The fact is that musicians have cheerfully borrowed from other cultures for centuries. Thus, our Greek clarinet virtuoso plays on an instrument introduced to his village by the military bands of the occupying Turkish army in the 19th century. Similarly the Tunisian melodies of M'Barak, the soulful Sufi glories on a disc from Pakistan, and the fatalistic howl of flamenco singing all derive from the same root: the Moorish empire of the Middle Ages. And the concoction of influences tapped by the Peruvian singer, Carmen Florez, is even stranger: a mixture of pre-Columbian sacred dances, harps imported by 16th-century Jesuits, Viennese waltzes brought by exiled 19th-century Europeans, and the ancestral African rhythms of the black slaves on the plantations.

So what conclusions do we draw? That when tribes are receptive to good ideas from abroad, when they relish diversity rather than fearing it, they gain far more than they lose — both in music and in "real life"? That when tribes ruthlessly start to "cleanse" their culture of "alien" influences — as the Nazis signalled by banning the music of Mendelssohn and other Jews — they are on the road to damnation? Such statements seem blatantly obvious. Yet our continent is again at war because these truths are apparently *not* self-evident to everyone. Stop all the clocks. Cancel the millennium. Europe is sliding back into the Dark Ages.

The only good game in town


THEATRE


Two consecutive first nights, two revivals of plays that triumphed on Broadway in the 1970s. And which of the week's American offerings carries more punch? Not Neil Simon's *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, an attack on the evils of New York from which the city emerges with a torn fingernail and a slightly bruised earlobe. Surprisingly, the answer is D.L. Coburn's *The Gin Game*, which involves a series of spats between two 70-year-olds in a retirement home.

Mark you, we are not talking Lennox Lewis here. Nothing more physically awful happens than that Joss Ackland's cranky Weller Martin hurls aside a card table and Dorothy Tutin's Fonsia Dorsey pummels him on the chest. But at the Savoy, as sadly not at the Haymarket, two ace performers accept a dramatist's invitation to find the harshness in his piece.

The omens at the Savoy seemed decidedly mixed. As the programme tells us, Donald Coburn won a Pulitzer for *The Gin Game* and saw it performed everywhere from Estonia to Argentina to China. As it fails to add, he has not had a substantial success since, and, when he opens his *Oxford Companion to American Theatre*, he must read that the play exemplifies "the sorry or peculiar state of playwriting" in an era when soaring costs made two-handers commonplace and dramatic action minimal. "Slight" was the verdict of the critic Harold Clurman when he reviewed Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn in the piece in 1977, and that view was shared by many British critics when they came to London a year later.

Yet even a crazily barking laughing boy in the first-night audience did not spoil my enjoyment of Frith Banbury's production. True, not much happens on the dilapidated, junk-packed porch Robin Don has designed. Mostly, Weller and Fonsia play gin rummy, and, though he regards it as a game of skill and himself as an expert, and though she hasn't touched a card for years, she invariably beats him. But with Tutin and Ackland in command, that raises the stakes and the dramatic tension enough to sustain a 100-minute evening.

Nor is the play just about male competitiveness. All that remains for Weller, who has mislaid a wife, three children and a once-thriving business, is day after day in a state institution where patronising nurses make him join in choruses of *Happy Birthday* and other offstage jollities. Since he won't accept responsibility for his predicament, resentment has overwhelmed him. Winning at cards has become compensation for becoming that creature that so scares Americans: a loser. And despite her offhandedness, Fonsia may be sublimating something too: hatred of the husband she divorced and anger at the son who refused to reject him.

Coburn does not crack as good jokes as Simon — Weller's remark that he is "suffering from one of the most advanced cases of old age in the US" is about the best — but at least they reflect character. More surprisingly, he resists the temptation to sentimentalise his characters or give them a soft landing. But then he has two performers who can embody vulnerability, insecurity, grief without making themselves gratuitously lovable. Both parts, especially Fonsia, are somewhat underwritten — but do you notice, when Tutin is smiling her pert, annoying smiles or painfully admitting she has lied about her life, or when Ackland is battling what feels to him like a tactical nuclear weapon in his stomach? No, you don't.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE


DONALD COOPER

Retiring but by no means shy: Dorothy Tutin (Fonsia) and Joss Ackland (Weller) square up for a fight over the cards in D.L. Coburn's *The Gin Game*

Spice with the sugar

DID my ears deceive me, or was **Jack Jones**'s name among the list of singers approved for safe, suburban listening in *Pleasantville*? If so, the choice was less than fair.

Given the right material, he remains as impressive a vocalist as the newly rediscovered Tony Bennett. And if Tom Jones can be deemed respectable again, there ought to be hope for his namesake, a nuanced performer who does not have to resort to tight trousers to make an impression.

On the other hand, it is clear why the American veteran — now white-haired and prone to cracking jokes about his senior citizen pass — tends to be lumped together with Perry Como. The sugar content in his show rose to dangerous levels at times. He feels duty-bound to reprise *Wives and Lovers*, one of his earliest hits, yet you don't have to be Andrea Dworkin to squirm at its sentiments. Jones sensibly tacked on humorous lyrics addressing men's problems, but such a lightweight number was hardly worth the trouble.

SHOWBIZ

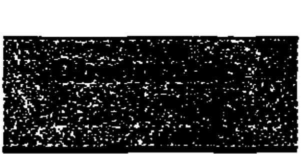
The same went for the insipid *Lollipops and Roses*, and the cute video montage of his young daughter that accompanied *A Child Is Born*. After a scorching treatment of *Luck, Be A Lady*, he made an unintentional comment on the decline of the musical by opting for the cardboard melodrama of the *Phantom* anthem, *The Music Of The Night*.

A generation younger than the masters, Jones is heir to some of the more dubious middle-of-the-road products of the Sixties. But when he got the focus right he revealed true class. *In The Wee Small Hours* burnt on a seductive low light, while *Who Can I Turn To?* has rarely sounded so affecting. Jones's loyal audience followed him every step of the way, but you sense that he still has more to offer than reading out golden wedding anniversary messages between sets. MTV, where are you when we need you?

CLIVE DAVIS

Appliance of science

It must be that time of the century again. While Tom Stoppard's fractal drama, *Arcadia*, plays at the Gate, at the other end of O'Connell Street a young Irish playwright is also seeing what post-modern science has to offer the theatre.



Like Stoppard's play, *Observatory* is set in the same room at two different points in time, and as in *Arcadia*, there is a historian snooping around, trying to recover all the pieces of a long neglected jigsaw and metaphorically join the past and the present.

Back in 1799, it seems, an Armagh Observatory employee hanged himself for uncertain reasons. Now Nicola McGloughlin (Mary O'Driscoll), a present-day astronomer, and Jon McKenna (Charlie Bonner), a local historian, are engaged in uncovering the facts, whether they lie in the reams of archive documents or in the realms of funky physics.

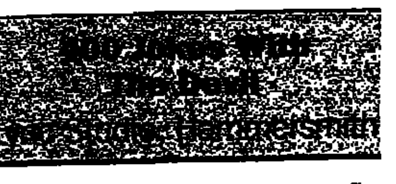
"Quantum physics? Do you know anything about quantum physics?" asks the slightly tetchy Ms McGloughlin, and faster than anyone can say Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle Schrödinger's Cat is meowing away as the audience is whizzed through a quick tutorial on all things sub-atomic.

While *Observatory* might possibly have survived as a time travelling sci-fi love story, the author quickly overfills the play's baggage. Soon he is also uncloaking a conspiracy concerning the aftermath of the United Irishmen's rebellion. As Carville attempts to pack all of this into a little more than 75 minutes (in general a laudable notion), his writhing plotting soon becomes dense enough to give an average black hole a run for its money. With so much plot to cover, relationships tend to be sketchy and there is always a strong sense that bits and pieces of the play have come loose.

Des Cave pours surly majesty into the patrician chief astronomer Hamilton, but O'Driscoll and Bonner never really have that option. Director Jason Byrne finds no clever way of leading his audience backward and forward in time. A firmer hand with the staging might perhaps have brought some focus.

LUKE CLANCY

Clown down Mexico way



In 1929, after the success of the film *The General Line*, Stalin granted the director Sergei Eisenstein permission to travel abroad to study new techniques in cinema. After a frustrating trawl through West Europe and an ill-fated alliance with Hollywood, Eisenstein realised his boyhood dream of visiting Mexico where, with the backing of Upton Sinclair, he began to film *Qué Viva México*. The film was never completed — indeed Eisenstein never got to see any of his footage — and the experience of that journey haunted him until his death 15 years later.

Theatre Alibi's *400 Jokes With The Devil* finds Eisenstein entering his final illness, where, as is traditional with such things, he feels compelled to educate his ignorant doctor in the story of his life to date, with the assistance of his two cinematic collaborators, Alexandrov and Tissé.

The somewhat lumbering opening in which Eisenstein reels off his ungainly CV, details the making of *Battleship Potemkin* and *The General Line*, meets Stalin and tours Europe, is mitigated once the crew arrive in Central America and the inevitable passions start to fly. The Russians' visit to Mexico is an exercise in extremes: the glorious colour pinching Eisenstein's frustration at filming in monochrome, public displays of penitence mocking private anguish, and the fluid passion of the Mexican people stirring up the murky blood of their awkward and sober guests.

Alibi tells the story with an attractive blend of song, film and text: the cast's energetic performance style and sparing use of props and scenery ensure that the action moves at a cracking pace, despite a slightly baggy script. While this works well for lighter episodes and occasional bursts of tragedy, the description of Eisenstein's extreme emotional complexity never quite hits the mark.

Theoretically there is nothing wrong with portraying Stalin as if he were Captain Haddock on Ketamin, but the decision to play the dictator for laughs then undermines Eisenstein's extraordinary revelation that he cannot help seeing the man as a scarlet-cheeked clown. Likewise the angst over "inappropriate" feelings towards his colleague Alexandrov does not quite reach the anticipated pitch. While much of the blame for this is due to inappropriate juxtaposition, there is a slightly emotionally retentive quality to Henry Hawkes's otherwise convincing portrayal of Eisenstein.

The didacticism of the unnecessary early scenes is particularly frustrating given the richness of the Mexico material; by focusing on intrigues of sex and passion, they leave little space for the men's complex reaction to the social and political resonance of their visit. In honesty, any complaint about this production stems from the fact that they swing so close to the mark: the cast is superb and the story is so good that it is probably only embarrassment that has saved it from Hollywood.

HETTIE JUDAH

■ **POP ALBUMS**
Echoes of the Bunnymen

ARTS

■ **WORLD MUSIC**
Chandra's global aim

Orbital limp back to Earth

NEW POP ALBUMS

ORBITAL
The Middle of Nowhere
(ffrr/London 556 076 £15.99)

ARRIVING in the week that a glove puppet called Flat Eric steered a strange, angular and utterly minimalist techno groove to the top of the singles chart, Orbital's fifth album, *The Middle of Nowhere*, sounds rather conventional. The duo's music remains a marriage of science and symphony, but whereas using synthesizers and drum machine loops to create long, mock-orchestral themes once sounded revolutionary, such techniques are now commonplace.

And, after ten years as Orbital, the brothers Paul and Phil Hartnoll have refined their musical approach to the point at which some of these carefully structured electronic suites are now haunted as much by the spectre of Mike Oldfield as by the party spirit of the rave generation. Amusing as it is to hear the voice of Rolf Harris explaining the workings of the stylophone at the start and finish of the current single, *Style*, his contribution underlines the record's surprisingly quaint sound.

To compound the effect, the three years since Orbital's last album, *In Sides*, have been one of the most frantic and fertile periods in the history of dance music, and while there is nothing wrong with faster-paced breakbeat numbers such as *Know Where to Run* and *I Don't Know You People*, the listener is left with the nagging impression that this has all been done in recent times with greater vigour and panache by Propellerheads, Prodigy and others.


LINKS

WEBSITES:
Orbital:
www.hyperreal.org/music/artists/orbital
Dawn of the Replicants:
www.dawnofthereps.co.uk
Paul Westerberg:
www.hollywoodandvine.com/paulwesterberg
Echo and the Bunnymen:
www.bunnymen.com

TELEVISION:
Top of the Pops: BBC1, tonight 7.30pm

DAWN OF THE REPLICANTS
Wrong Town, Wrong Planet, Three Hours Late
(eastwest 3984-26474 £15.99)

AS ON their previous recordings, the second album by Dawn of the Replicants is laid out with all the inelegance and haphazard logic of a scrapyard. The wobbly rhythmic structures, warped melodies and wandering lyrics of songs such as *Sub Erotic Fields* and *Cabin Fever* suggest it is the work of a band from the fringes of the New York underground or perhaps an inbred Arizona desert community, not five young men from Galashiels, near Edinburgh.

Their influences are so many and mixed that you can pretty well take your pick; anything from the abrasive American garageband ethos of Royal Trux on *Big Hefty Hounds* to the English chamber-pop tunefulness of the Auteurs. But while their music is impressively unpredictable and eccentric, there are inevitably times when you wonder to what end this is so.

Then, just as they are about to lurch over the edge, it somehow falls into place. "You may think that I've sold out/But, hey, I'm just checking in," Paul Vickers sings with a coarse, Jagger-esque sneer in *Science Fiction Freak*, a tremendous song liberally sprinkled with cheesy spaceship noises and B-movie imagery.

Full of unusual angles and odd ideas to conjure with, this is still, somewhat against the odds, an album with a hot rock'n'roll heart.

PAUL WESTERBERG
Suicaine Gratification
(EMI/Chrysalis 7243 4 99145 £15.99)

IF HEART was all it took then Paul Westerberg would be up there with Madonna and Michael Jackson. As it is, the former frontman of the Replacements remains one of the great neverhasbeens of rock'n'roll (the "Mats" were the critically revered band from Minneapolis whose Best Of compilation goes by the sad title *All For Nothing*).


Dance and techno have moved on in the three years since Orbital released their last album, leaving Paul and Phil Hartnoll in *The Middle of Nowhere*

Suicaine Gratification, Westerberg's third solo album, confirms once again his beautiful loser status with sting-in-the-tail songs such as *Best Thing That Never Happened* and *It's a Wonderful Lie*: "How am I looking? I don't want the truth/What am I doing? I ain't in my youth/I'm past my prime, or was that just a pose?"

Although recorded cheaply, it is an album which places a premium on traditional songwriting craft, and its affecting mixture of painfully honest ballads and sparkling, minor-key rockers illustrates why Westerberg remains a potent influence on bands such as Wilco who have come up in his wake.

ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN
What Are You Going To Do With Your Life?
(London 556 080 £15.99)

AFTER the hoopla surrounding their comeback album, *Evergreen*, in 1997, there is a predictable sense of anticlimax about the new Echo & the Bunnymen record, a collection of introspective ballads and lilting love songs that finds singer Ian McCulloch musing over the big questions in life.

There are no songwriting credits on the artwork, but with guitarist Will Sergeant reduced to a marginal presence on most of the songs, and bassist Les Pattison replaced by one Guy Pratt on all but the last track, it seems safe to assume that this is a McCulloch solo album in all but name.

As such, it reveals a reflective side to his personality that is at odds with the cocksure star of popular legend. "I know the lines are showing/I can't keep them in", he sings in *Rust*, a song in which he acknowledges not only his own mortality, but his culpability and fallibility too. Despite its low-key approach, the album is made all the more engaging by such insights.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1	(3)	**Talk on Corners**	Corrs (Atlantic)
2	(2)	**Performance and Cocktails**	Stereophonics (V2)
3	(1)	**13**	Blur (Food)
4	(6)	**Forgiven, not Forgotten**	Corrs (Atlantic)
5	(4)	**I've Been Expecting You**	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
6	(9)	**Step One**	Steps (Jive)
7	(5)	**Baby One More Time**	Britney Spears (Jive)
8	(7)	**This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours**	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
9	(15)	**Gold - Greatest Hits**	Abba (Polydor)
10	(12)	**You've Come a Long Way, Baby**	Fatboy Slim (Skint)

COPYRIGHT CIN ● *Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

Living off the land

ANTONIO FORCIONE
Ghetto Paradise
(Naim naimcd032)

ALTHOUGH he has been living in the UK for the best part of two decades now, and has established himself via solo gigs and duo work in Acoustic Mania as a fixture on the London scene, guitarist Antonio Forcione has roots in the Adriatic hill village of Montecilfone. Much of the inspiration for the delicate yet busily virtuosic music on this album has its source in his early experiences in this farming community, and to help him express his feelings about his ghetto paradise he has enlisted two of jazz's most versatile and sensitive sidemen, both well versed in the quicksilver intricacies of guitar music: bassist Kai Eckhardt de Camargo and percussionist supreme Trilok Gurt.

JAZZ ALBUMS

Whether backed by them or by an equally surefooted, fleet UK contingent including saxophonist Ed Jones, drummer Nic France and percussionist Bosco de Oliveira, Forcione is always nimble and quick-witted. Utilising a variety of instruments — steel and nylon-stringed, fretless and Spanish guitars — he imbues his bright but intense themes with (to borrow a phrase from one of his chief inspirations, the Guitar Trio) passion, grace and fire.

BRASSERIE TRIO
Musique Mecanique
(Leo CD LR 269)

THE Brasserie Trio — trumpeter Alberto Mandarini, trombonist Lauro Rossi, baritone/tenor saxophonist and bass-clarinettist Carlo Actis Dato — began life in 1992 as a spinoff from the Instabile Orchestra, and the wit, irreverence and elegance of their music is immediately reminiscent of the larger ensemble.

Like the full orchestra, too, they draw on an extraordinary variety of musical forms for their repertoire — calypso rubs shoulders with Italian tarantella, Dixieland with free jazz, jaunty danceable romps with the most plaintive, affecting airs — but it is their imaginative use of their necessarily limited instrumental resources that really impresses. Each man is able to switch with consummate ease between his rhythmic supporting role and gutsy, cogent soloing, and the resulting album — recorded live in Pisa — is at once informal and assured.

CHRIS PARKER

Clive Davis meets the redoubtable Sheila Chandra, singer of the world

Across the great divide

According to Sheila Chandra, the secret lies in "letting the voice fly". Where that inner voice of the subconscious will choose to carry her — to India, Ireland or Andalucia — is the key to creativity. "It's almost like a cellular memory," she says. "When it happens I feel I'm in touch with the place where the very first singer was, millions of years ago."

Over the past 15 years Chandra, a South London-born "world citizen", has charted a distinctive journey across frontiers in search of the ancestral roots of song. A photogenic teenage pop star with the band Monsoon in the early 1980s, she has matured into a committed artist who has fused tradition and innovation to make a category all her own.

A new compilation assembles some of her most provocative work for Peter Gabriel's world music label, Real World, in a blend of traditional Indian drones, English folk songs, Celtic laments and a lullaby by Manuel de Falla. *Moonsung — A Real World Retrospective* is no brash "greatest hits" set of melodic hooks, but an imaginatively sequenced dreamscape of vocal effects and spartan instrumental textures.

Meeting Chandra herself is not quite so serene an experience. Self-willed and accustomed to controlling all aspects of her studio work and her business affairs, she gives the impression that, in an ideal world, she would ask all the questions in interviews, too.

But she probably has good reason to be suspicious of the media. Asian culture may be trendy now, but Chandra seems well aware of the dangers of being caught up in mere fashion. Nor does she want to be portrayed as the curator of a museum-like musical culture.

Although her parents were born in Kerala, her immersion into Indian traditional music was anything but automatic. "I ignored most of it until I got into Monsoon," she says. "Nobody ever said it was unhip, but it was. We just thought of it as the music of our parents; there was no sense that it was part of a rich heritage." Soul music cast a bigger shadow. She recalls being fascinated by the gospel mannerisms of Deniece Williams. She even admits that the first record she ever bought was the Floaters' kitsch slowdancing epic, *Float On*.

Growing up between cultures, Chandra studied at theatre school and landed a long-running role in the children's TV series *Grange Hill*. By the time she was 17 her vocal talents (nourished in lonely hours of practising in the stairwell at the family home) had carried her into Monsoon. Although the group's first single, *Ever so Lonely*, entered the Top Ten, progress thereafter was frustratingly slow.

Chandra later turned to solo work. From attentive listening to vocalists from other traditions and continents, she became aware of the common heritage that linked European folk singers with the ornamented vocal styles of Arabia and India.

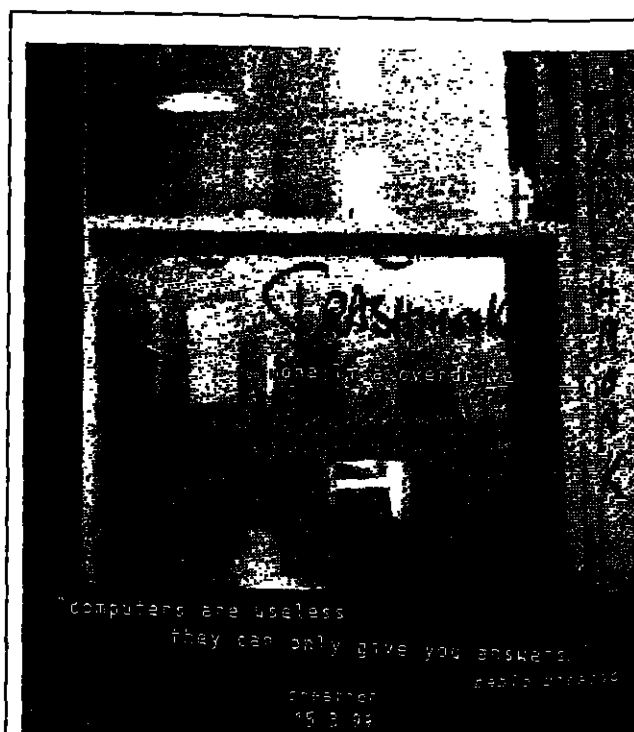
Her trilogy of Real World recordings was inaugurated by the enchanting *Weaving My Ancestors' Voices*. Meanwhile she abandoned the city for the countryside, settling in Glastonbury: "The silence around me there enters my work," she says. "I don't think I could live in the city and produce the same subtleties."

After a long period of concentrating on the studio, she felt ready to venture into live performances, culminating in a Womad tour of America. Today she still has reservations about what the classical pianist Glenn Gould called the "non take two-ness" of the concert stage.


"Let the voice fly" is Sheila Chandra's advice

"Some artists prefer working live, and the sense of having no safety net," she says. "To me it's much more of a technical enterprise. I like to have the fiftieth chance to change things. I could eat and sleep in a studio. You can play God there. It seems bland to go on the road and do the same thing over and over, and have to sort out any changes in the running order with the band. Besides, if I'd taken that path, I wouldn't have had time to learn what I had to learn."

● Moonsung — A Real World Retrospective *is released on Monday*





■ POP OPINION

Immortality beckons

How to work a pop miracle

Resurrection doesn't have quite the same ring when all it means is hype

CAITLIN MORAN

One of pop's many functions (alongside making you dance, making you cry, making you accelerate dangerously when the chorus happens, and ensuring that wherever you are in the world, if you yelp "I see a little silhouette-o of a man!" someone will unfailingly shrill "Scaramouche! Scaramouche! Will you do the fandango?" back at you) is the taking of biblical mythology and rendering it down into a small greasy pellet. Take, for instance, the walls of Jericho tumbling down. Roger Waters built one out of polystyrene and kicked it down on Pink Floyd's *The Wall* tour.

Or making a blind man see: Primal Scream's Bobby Gillespie claims it happened to him on *Movin' On Up*, although the moment of healing *may actually have been something* as simple as removing his fringe from his eyes.

And then there's crucifixion and resurrection. It's never enough for your average pop gonk to simply get a slagging: *they are "crucified" by the gutter* press they so assiduously courted in their dog days; and when *their* next single gets bought into the charts and lands at No 8, then that's "resurrection". Little matter that Jesus Christ hung from nails embedded in his palms and died a prolonged death from a combination of dehydration and shock; when Robbie Williams got fat from eating too many pies — and then got so drunk he looked cross-eyed for six months — and the press pointed all this out, *that was as bad as the naily-hand death thing*.

Of course a pop star talking about crucifixions and resurrections has about as much meaning as Kate Moss declaring war on split ends; but there have certainly been occasions when a pop star's utterings have led to them, *if not being* hung up by their hands until dead, then being poked by centurions' swords until they squeaked. The most famous was, *obviously, John Lennon's* "We're bigger than Jesus" quote, which prompted Christians to burn Beatles records across Middle America. Lennon *should* have called on Beatles fans to instigate tit-for-tat Bible bonfires in retaliation. Alas, it was left to Ringo to pull "cute" faces until the Christians got distracted by something else.

Jerry Lee Lewis was told he would burn in the furthest reaches of Hell — something he'd probably worked out for himself long before — when the press found out he had wed *his* 13-year-old cousin. And when Boy George was arrested for heroin possession *after he* admitted to being an addict, and had to hide while the tabloids ran stupid headlines such as "I tried orange juice to save *George" and "Only six weeks* to live", that was, you know, quite a bad year for him.

Pop resurrections, on the other hand, are practically non-existent. When, *after ten* years on the pop dole, Duran Duran got to No 6 in 1994, it appeared to be a *resurrection*, but turned out to be a mere Baker's Rising — the phenomenon whereby a corpse, on entering *the crematorium*, appears to sit up and attempt to leave the big flaming oven.

The same icky corpse-curling mistaken for reanimation has also recently occurred with Human League, E17, Pete Wylie, Babylon Zoo and Gene. But it's important to understand that when pop stars talk of a resurrection, what they really mean, in the non-*hysterical world, is* "a comeback", "a return to making money", "being invited to nice parties again". Deposed pop stars dream of this resumption of services nightly: anyone who makes it from limbo *back into the light — such as* Cher — is viewed as a magical, glory-wreathed Lazarus; someone lucky, holy and blessed.

The tragedy of this is that a comeback/resurrection is one of the easiest things for a record company to arrange. If the record company likes the band or artist, it simply buys the artist a hit single from a songwriter, and *markets it* until it bleeds. There's very little miraculous about the process.

Of course, as recently as three years ago this conversation *would have been wholly* figurative. But now, however, technology has given those who care to use it the ability to make the dead sing: the most meaningful example of resurrection currently available to us. The Beatles, featuring the dead Lennon, scored a Top Ten hit in 1996 with *Free as a Bird*, and who can forget the *uniquely cringe-making duet* that Natalie Cole conducted with her dead Dad, Nat "King" Cole, on *Unforgettable*? The ethos behind these singles is disquietingly reminiscent of accounts of war orphans in 1916 who, in their wildness and boredom, would go out on to the abandoned battlefields and jump on the corpses, to make them "sing". *Apparently, they make* a squealing, wheezing sound, not unlike bagpipes.

And speaking of squealing dead things that sound not unlike bagpipes, *I* note that Big Country are about to embark on a resurrection tour. Now if anyone turns up for that, that *will* be worth cracking a few chocolate eggs for.



John Lennon once stated that the Beatles were bigger than Jesus, an opinion not borne out by subsequent events

■ POP INTERVIEW

Bernard Sumner returns

The names to follow

Ireland has produced many great songwriters, says **Nick Kelly**, and the latest is Ken Sweeney, aka Brian

The year's first truly great album is upon us. And *it's* by a *band* called Brian. A seamless collection of poignant, arresting songs, *Bring Trouble* traces the steps from the giddy delirium of love's first flourish to the heartbreak of betrayal and disillusionment, before arriving at an eventual reaffirmation of life and love.

The author of this song cycle is Ken Sweeney, a London-based Dubliner *in his early* thirties, who is Brian's hea[illegible] and soul. He coaxed respected musicians to play on the album, including members of *the High Llamas and the Cocteau* Twins, while some of the Divine Comedy will feature in his touring band.

"It's all about my own memories *of growing up in Dublin* and falling in love," he explains. "If you look at a writer like Carson McCullers or filmmakers like Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, they each have this recurring theme throughout their work that in relationships and in love people transcend their own lives. That's pretty much what a song like *Wherever We're Going* is all about. That contact, that shared experience with other people is where the greatest wealth lies."

There are several potential hit singles on the album, a case in point being the effervescent *This Kitchen, 5am.* "I was staying in a friend's house in Termonfeckin where I wrote a lot of these songs. It was early in the morning and I was thinking just how weird the inside of a kitchen looks at that time. So you get these lines about the hardened sugar on a sugar bowl, the humming of the fridge, the blackened dirt on the cooker."

It so happens that the aforementioned friend is one of the writers of the cult sitcom, *Father Ted*. Indeed, Sweeney himself had a cameo in the final episode, appearing in full clerical garb alongside a certain Father Brian Eno.

"Getting to act opposite Eno was a high point. Between takes we talked about music and I owned up to being a musician. He asked me what my band was called. When I said Brian, his face lit up. He said: 'That's the greatest compliment anybody has ever paid me'. And I had to say: 'Well, actually, it's not after you, Brian. It's named after the bass player *in the Blades' — a revered* Dublin band of the early 1980s. There and then I blew any chance of getting him to produce my album."

Brian's main man: Ken Sweeney revisits his past

While retaining the warmth and lyrical depth of Brian's earlier work, *Bring Trouble* has a musical breadth that acknowledges the developments of the intervening years. "The early stuff was very emotive and heartfelt, maybe a little too earnest," says Sweeney. "I would like to make that kind of music just a little bit more accessible and build on it. I'm sorry for the people who were expecting jingly jangly guitars on the new album. I got bored with that and I want to try something different."

● *Bring Trouble is released on* Monday *by Setanta Records. Brian play Upstairs at the Garage, London, on April 22*

Lisa Verrico meets the happily reformed bad boys of Electronic

Life's great when you're straight

Bernard Sumner's musical career may be into its twenty-first year, *but the Mancunian singer has* never been busier. Last summer saw him return to the stage with New Order, which is soon due to begin recording new material. Earlier this year, he played with Primal Scream and *contributed* vocals to a forthcoming single by the Chemical Brothers. Meanwhile, with former Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr, Sumner has been making his third album as Electronic.

"There was a period *last* year when I felt as though I *had taken on too much*," he says. "Johnny and I were working in the studio in Manchester all week, then every Friday night I was taking the train to London to rehearse with New Order. It was like having two demanding jobs at the same time."

To add to his troubles, Sumner found himself suffering from stage fright. "I have never been comfortable in front of a big audience," he admits. "When New Order were playing stadiums in the 1980s, I coped by hiding behind drink and drugs, but I was constantly ill and incredibly unhappy. Afterwards, I couldn't face touring again because I thought I would end up in the same state."

When New Order reformed for last year's Reading Festival, Sumner resolved to play it straight. "I felt I needed to con[illegible] ... "When I walked on stage at Reading, totally straight, the sight of the audience terrified me. For the first time in 17 years *I could* see all these faces staring back at *me. But once* I got over the shock, I loved it."



Marr and Sumner: working hard and loving it

Sumner's new-found confidence spilt over into his work with Marr. Rather than taking two years to complete an album, as in the past, the pair wrote and recorded *the bulk of* the new songs in just three months. *The result is* a fresh record, *Twisted Tenderness*, *packed* with the same, instant pop melodies that saw the group's eponymous debut, released eight years ago, sell more than a million copies.

"We both felt really inspired during recording," recalls Marr. "I *was getting up* at six in the morning because I was so keen to get into the studio. When I played guitar, it was like I was 16 again. I trusted my instincts. If it rocked, it was OK. We definitely overcooked the last album [*Raise the Pressure*], labouring over each *song for months*. Bernard and I are in an odd position in that we have unlimited time. That was our downfall."

To prevent themselves making the same mistake with *Twisted Tenderness*, the pair employed a *producer for the* first time. The job fell to veteran New York hip-hop producer Arthur Baker, who had worked with Sumner's band in the early 1980s on singles such as *Confusion*.

"We wanted Arthur because he is great with beats and rhythm," says *Sumner*. "*It* didn't quite work out as *planned* though. We ended up producing a lot of it ourselves and Johnny did most of the mixing. With hindsight, Arthur was good to have around because he told us when enough was enough." Baker *also brought in former* Cameo keyboardist Merv De Pyer, *who was largely responsible* for replacing Electronic's formerly clean-cut synths with a dirtier, more distorted sound. Add the fact that Marr was persuaded to play more guitar, more loudly, and it is little surprise that *new songs* such as the album opener *Make it Happen* have a touch of the Chemical Brothers about them.

However, the album is aimed *mainly* at the discerning dance fans who may have grown out of clubbing but still like their music beat-based. Much like Electronic, in fact — both Sumner and Marr are reformed party animals. "I no longer buy *that myth* that you have to be out every night behaving badly to make good music," says Sumner. "I got sick of waking up every morning feeling crap. *I chilled out* for a week, it felt great and I wanted more of that."

Sumner's healthier, happier lifestyle has had its disadvantages, however. "In the past, all of my lyrics were about my problems," he says. "*Now, I don't have any* problems worth writing about. I had to make up a couple of fictitious characters in the end."

The album's final track, *Flicker*, was inspired by a comment by Pet Shop Boy Neil Tennant, while Kraftwerk's *Karl Bartos suggested Sumner* try his trick of reworking *negative* comments about the band into lyrics. The first single, the catchy *Vivid*, is about nothing at all.

"That's probably why it's the single," says Sumner. "The first single I ever bought was *Ride A White Swan* by T. Rex. To this day, I don't have a clue *what that's* about, but it's still a great song."

● Vivid *is out on Parlophone on Monday*. Twisted Tenderness *is out on April 18*

■ LISTINGS

Day of Passions

ARTS

■ CONCERTS

'Anti-millennium' music

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

ST JOHN PASSION: Leading London choir Polyphony gives a performance of Bach's moving setting of the Gospel. Stephen Layton conducts an impressive line-up of singers accompanied by Baroque orchestra Canzona.
St John's, Smith Square (0171-222 1061). Today, 2.30pm.

VIENNA BRAHMS TRIO: The award-winning piano trio, currently on an international tour, pays London a visit with a programme of Rachmaninov, Mendelssohn and Pfitzner.
Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow, 7.30pm

THE COLONEL BIRD: Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the lunatics. Definitely a metaphor. Rupert Gould directs.
Gate (0171-229 0706). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

CITY AT EASTER: Singers Mark Padmore and Matthew Hargreaves join the City of London Sinfonia for more Bach, this time the *St Matthew Passion*. Nicholas Kraemer conducts (tonight, 6pm). Tomorrow the Irish Festival continues with a concert by Micheal O'Súilleabháin and the Irish Chamber Orchestra (7.30pm). On Sunday life in Northern Ireland is evoked by a trio of popular musicians and storytellers (7.30pm).
Barbican (0171-638 8891).



Lynne Dawson sings with the SCO in Glasgow

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Staple Easter fare is also on offer here as the **Bach Choir** and the **English Chamber Orchestra** gives the annual Good Friday performance at this venue of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. The choir's new man at the helm, *David Hill*, conducts.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Today, 2pm.

GLASGOW: *Soprano Lynne Dawson* joins the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus** in Chausson's mournful *Poème de la'amour et de la mere*, preceded by a Faure suite. A Mendelssohn finale provides a counterweight to the otherwise all-French programme. Raymond Leppard conducts.
City Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Tim Brooke-Taylor and Brian Murphy are members of the hopeless gang outwitted by Dulcie Gray in The Ladykillers.
Grand (01902 429212). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prizewinner. See review, page 37.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

◩ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

◩ **GOOD.** C P Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar (0171-369 1732).

☐ **CARD BOYS:** Even the pests who stick sex cards in phone boxes have dreams of bettering themselves, Mike Packer's spirited play tells us.
Bush (0181-743 3388).

☐ **400 JOKES WITH THE DEVIL:** This is Theatre Alibi's touring account of Eisenstein's life and career, from *the Odessa Steps* onwards. Includes footage of his films. See review, p.37.
Lyric Studio, W6 (0181-741 8701)

■ **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE:** Adrian Noble's spectacular production of the first Narnia adventure comes to town.
Barbican (0171-638 8891).

☐ **SACRED HEART:** In Mick Mahoney's new play two second-generation Irish lads from NW3, meet again after years estranged. Edward Hall directs.
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

☐ **GROSS INDECENCY:** The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hoyland and Clive Francis as counsel for and against, in Moises Kaufman's play.
Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

☐ **A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR:** Late Tennessee Williams play where four thirtysomething women do and don't want to go for a lakeside picnic. Jenny Sealey directs for Graeae Theatre.
Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of genius and dry humour illuminate Zeffirelli's sentimental tribute to the culture-mad English spinsters who raised the director in Florence before Mussolini jailed them. With Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jake Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler is closer to *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* than *The Rake's Progress*. With Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): Ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. His 1950s values make him look mystical, mad, and blindingly naive in the sleazy 1990s. Bill Kelly directs.

BEYOND SILENCE (12): Plucky performances can't save this: a tortuous trawl through a German soap in which a young girl tries to get a life beyond her profoundly deaf parents. Caroline Link directs

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): Charles Laughton's one and only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unforgettable. An absolute classic 1955 fear movie.

AUGUST IN THE WATER (ICA): You could hang Sogo Ishii's surreal Japanese science fiction in the Tate. It's a beautiful, inscrutable look at a city cursed by drought and a mysterious epidemic that turns the guts to stone.

CURRENT

GODS AND MONSTERS (15): Ian McKellen excels as a legendary horror movie director who grooms his gardener (Brendan Fraser) for a role far darker than that of over-muscled escort. Bill Condon directs.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18): Edward Norton is ferociously compelling as a white supremacist skinhead in Tony Kaye's lavish, controversial but doomed attempt to get under the skin of an American tragedy.

PAYBACK (18): Mel Gibson blasts his way through Brian Helgeland's chunky thriller. With Gregg Henry, William Devane, James Coburn and Kris Kristofferson.

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U): Painless, big cartoon adventure in which farting toddlers bond in a spooky forest. Witty enough for adults; an unavoidable necessity for three to eight-year-olds.

Grotesque and yet gorgeous

OPERA

Hansel and Gretel
Sadler's Wells

Richard Jones's poetic, enchanting, horrifying — in other words all-embracing — production of Humperdinck's fairy-tale for Welsh National Opera was given a warm if somewhat nervous welcome by Hilary Finch when it was new in Cardiff at Christmas. Children, apparently, happily take it in their stride; they probably watch more television than adults. I suspect that the older you are, the more disturbing you may find it.

Anyway, audiences are funny things. When Nigel Robson's dear little old lady of a Witch skewered Imelda Drumm's Hansel on a broomstick, bound hand and foot like a suckling pig complete with an apple — gag!— in his mouth, and then force-fed him through a tube, Wednesday's audience was falling about laughing, while this particular member of it was halfway under his seat in sheer terror. That is the climax of gruesomeness in the staging, unless you count the rescued children enthusiastically settling down to eat the Witch at curtain-fall. But it is balanced by imagery of extraordinary wonder and tenderness: the Dream Pantomime, with angel-chefs and a Max Ernst fish butler serving the children the banquet of a lifetime, is a truly Mahlerian child's vision of heaven.

Which, despite the brilliance of the production, leads to perhaps the most riveting aspect of the evening: the musical performance under Vladimir Jurowski. The Russian conductor writes most interestingly in the programme of his initial doubts about the piece, of the technical difficulty in realising the "unbelievably intricate" polyphony, and of the somewhat suffocating Wagnerism. He feels the need somehow to get beyond all that, and indeed does get beyond it, into the world of Mahler.

He is free with *rubato*, pulling the tempo of the overture about with gay abandon, and thereafter scarcely a bar goes by without a touch of expressive shading. At first it all seemed a little restless, but Jurowski's patent love of the music soon wins you over: he never hurries, and makes sure that every strand of polyphony is as audible as the voices, in which he is aided by the WNO Orchestra's magnificent playing. Jurowski's initial doubts turn into a love affair of almost embarrassing warmth.

He also mentions the gruesomeness, but not that other Teutonic element, the *Gemütlichkeit*: Robson's Witch oozes with it, olde-worlde charm as synthetic as the cream on the chocolate cake that lures the children into his/her lair. His singing is musical and unexaggerated, as is that of the whole cast: Linda Kitchen and Imelda Drumm irresistible as the children, Mary Lloyd-Davies and Robert Poulton hugely sympathetic as the despairing parents, and Mary-Louise Aitken exceptional as Sandman and Dew Fairy. Musically this is a feast as rich as Jones's Dream Pantomime, and in combination with his humane inventive staging makes for an unforgettable evening. Don't miss it as it tours the country.

RODNEY MILNES



Child's play: Linda Kitchen (Gretel) and Imelda Drumm (Hansel) in Welsh National Opera's superb staging

Postwar music parade

CONCERTS

BBCSO/Davis
Festival Hall

BBC Radio 3's magnificently resourceful *Sounding the Century* festival reaches a climax this month with *Endless Parade*, a four-week-long celebration of postwar British music.

The diversity of repertoire in that half-century was well illustrated in the programme for the first concert of the final series at the Festival Hall on Wednesday night. Harrison Birtwistle's *Endless Parade*, which lent its name to the series, was heard alongside a new commission from Richard Causton, *Millennium Scenes*, while works by Britten (*Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes*) and Tippett (*The Vision of St Augustine*) provided the historical perspective.

Previous works by the young and gifted Causton have deeply impressed me, notably *The Persistence of Memory* with its haunting sonorities and exquisitely realised sense of suspended time. *Millennium Scenes* is a very different proposition, however: described as an "antidote to the official millennium celebrations", it is a fierce response to the brutality and heartlessness of our times. To complain that the score, with its sustained shrill whistles, relentless pounding violence and final blaring car horns, is raucous cacophony is to state no more than a truism.

After that, even a card-carrying heckler might have found Birtwistle's *Endless Parade* a tonic to the ears. Its grotesque apparitions and phantasmagorical glimpses seemed civilised by comparison, certainly in a performance as skilfully controlled as this. Hakan Hardenberger made the solo trumpet part a thing of beauty. Andrew Davis and the BBC Symphony Orchestra coped heroically with both Birtwistle and Causton, and delivered the immaculately conceived *Sea Interludes* of Britten with no less care for their textural detail.

Tippett's *Vision of St Augustine* is very much one for the converted. Yet I did appreciate the literally transcendental virtuosity of soloists Alan Opie and Alison Smart, the BBC Singers and Symphony Chorus and their orchestral colleagues.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Passion without applause

OAE/Leonhardt
St John's

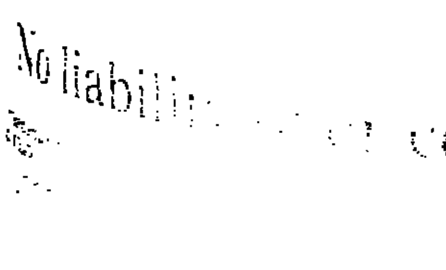
Does anyone call Gustav Leonhardt Gus? It seems unlikely, considering the man's sober demeanour and his almost finicky way with the music he plays or conducts. Since this is Easter week and the score on his stand at St John's, Smith Square, was Bach's *St John Passion*, he had extra reasons to be well-behaved. This is a work Leonhardt will now only conduct in a church, and he requested no applause, not one clap.

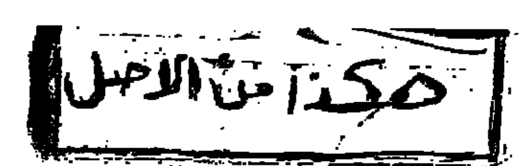
So the Evangelist, Jesus, Pilate, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and their 13-strong choir filed on in silence. The great opening chorus *Herr, unser Herscher* did not bode well. The sound balance favoured the orchestra. Heavy rhythmic accenting, signalled by Leonhardt's arms rotating in circles, made the piece heave like a boat in a storm. The seasick feeling persisted throughout the chorales: only towards the end, with Christ nailed to the cross and dying, did Leonhardt relax, letting tenderness and anguish flow through the notes.

Luckily the soloists escaped the worst of Leonhardt's propellers. He just let them sing. And they sang, by and large, superbly. Mark Padmore's Evangelist button-holed the ears immediately, unfolding his grave and terrible story with perfect clarity and sweet expression. In the arias, Padmore's exquisite tenor solos faced competition from Stephen Varcoe's bass and, especially, Michael Chance's counter-tenor (delicately heartbreaking in *Es ist vollbracht*). Rachel Elliott's soprano flared brightly in the tripping rhythms of *Ich folge dir gleichfalls*, but only found fake grief in her post-Crucifixion cry, *Zerfliesse, mein Herze*. As always in church Passion performances it seemed incongruous to find Jesus facing Crucifixion in a suit, collar and tie, but Michael George's bass voice resonated with authority.

Precision was Leonhardt's watchword: you could tell by his hand movements, as well as the crisp sound. It was achieved, though, at the overall expense of dramatic punch. Still, by the end Leonhardt's measured approach paid good dividends: the falling phrases of the final chorus, *Ruht wohl*, flowed with dignity and the deepest sadness. The music done, the performers left, looking at their feet. No applause.

GEOFF BROWN





ACROSS

1 Swelling seas sadly drowning e.g. geology graduate (7)
5 Piece on Communist reported shot (8)
9 Items of furniture with gold inlay provided for naval officers (10)
16 Must one have spelling lessons? (9,10)
17 Sickness seen in Paradise as exceptional (7)
18 Come back together possibly once? Never! (9)
19 Going wrong first to last in period of opportunity (7)
20 Sellers of *War Cry* look on, facing obstacle in posh part of pub (6,3)
21 Sound of feline animal in sandy terrain near Ayr? (5)
22 Feature of dress in which little Mary appears before the Queen (9)
24 Underline number (11)
26 Diligent couple, American, behind fool, initially ignorant (9)
28 Being frivolous, she dated English drunk (5-10)
32 Indian companion brought in for child-minding facility (6)
34 Loiter? Sure could be possibility if ones this (10)
35 Clear and concise dictionary isn't badly laid out inside (8)
38 Humble learner meets wise-looking person by back of academy (5)
39 Financial document shows heap given to debtor getting behind (4,5)
41 Possibly he is achier having caught cold — bacteria responsible (11)
43 Ben may provide me with a challenge (11)
44 Inspect learner's room — find research analysis (4,5)
45 Material let out to accommodate bits near Julie's middle! (5)
46 Religious wonder-worker wants nothing Catholic to be carried around (8)
47 Child who could be one of Famous Five? (10)
49 Boldness shown by heartless sweetheart (6)
51 Place at which all hope must be abandoned — always Rome? (3,3,2,3,4)
54 Explorer earns sums after travelling around (9)
57 Rambling screed with no end should be shortened again (11)
59 Outburst when Mrs Mopp comes in to get extra payment (9)
60 Racoon-like animal, one hiding behind garment (5)
62 Fresh soup, meat — around end of dinner, cheese (9)
64 Folly making mother return to supposed site of monster (7)
66 Form of script including, primarily, emporium's latest information? (5,4)
67 A mother with energy that's remarkable (7)
68 Following Rapunzel's example and behaving wildly (7,4,4,4)
69 Folk crossing, going in and out of stations? (10)
70 Peg, dram, a litre? Wanting none of them! (8)
71 Last stages of battle with only a few left on board? (3-4)

DOWN

1 A superior street artist, one in short narrow road on a far continent (10)
2 One possibly wounded in the Middle East — hurry into hospital (7)
3 Immortalised bird is diving into rising river (9)
4 It helps one to look at things in different ways (11)
5 Teacher in lab's second degree? (6,2,7)
6 Solid figure ousting male involved in true act of retaliation (8)
7 Bad sort, no good, has secure places to hide in (11)
8 Grandma heads north for Scottish location (5)
10 Is article on church supporting honour and attitude of deference? (9)
11 Gong brings first of diners into dinner maybe (5)
12 Second little woman at home keeping lady and man apart, separated (9)
13 Enjoy book on train, perhaps, and find writer's hidden meaning (4,7,3,5)
14 Those that are fleeced may see him go off with the spoils (7)
15 One when resting, it seems, may be bent (6)
23 Controls engineers put on barriers around centre of Hull (9)
25 Expertise in home delivery (9)
27 Finds the bottle warder has to drink, wrinkling nose over spirit? (6,2,4,7)
29 Fabric shreds everyone stitched together (10)
30 Placed in difficulty, I ate dust (8)
31 Vessel out East in a passage heavy with traffic (5,5)
33 Like this puzzle? It could make you weep quietly a short while (7)
36 Rogue may be one to sweep through on a path of destruction (7)
37 Fruit fly possibly bigger than all the others? (8)
39 Edge, something rocky, suits butterfly (9)
40 A concert's organised for singers (9)
42 Board favouring friend, entertaining very big alternative suggestion (7-8)
48 Thin, as office papers may be? (11)
49 A sediment is stirred, becoming diffuse (11)
50 Firmness in little girl, 10, only half nice (10)
52 Is son next? That could be changed, if heredity becomes such (3-6)
53 Experimenter who risks being brought down to earth (4,5)
55 Relation, a left-winger, not exonerated (9)
56 This horse may be a joke (8)
57 In anger, a member of the House may show violent behaviour (7)
58 Fabric not bright, it having only minimal yellow (6)
61 Song about unknown old knight getting in a state (7)
63 Fellow, cad, not accepted by nobs, right? (5)
65 Urge production of endless gibberish (5)

GOOD FRIDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD 217

In our Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword competition, a prize of £100 will be awarded for the first correct solution to be opened on Thursday, April 22. Entries to Good Friday Jumbo (217), Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, April 24

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

....

....

POSTCODE ....

Times Two Good Friday Jumbo

There is no prize for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday, April 5

ACROSS

1 Cause of annoyance, fear (7)
5 Laura his muse (8)
9 Glide between notes *(mus.)* (10)
16 The Young Pretender (6,6,7)
17 Retirement garment (7)
18 Last few job candidates (9)
19 Neptune's weapon (7)
20 Historical record keeper (9)
21 Mark —, American author (5)
22 Repulsive (9)
24 In charming fashion (11)
26 Uncompromising type (9)
28 Indoor climate control (3-12)
32 Blunt needle (6)
34 Ledge by casement (6,4)
35 Capital of Brazil (8)
38 To ooze (5)
39 Improvised (eg road) block (9)
41 Play-mounting activities (11)
43 Sea-depth measurer (4,7)
44 Causing sweat (9)
45 One fitting into mortise (5)
46 Period of 3 (8)
47 Unglazed earthenware (10)
49 Split apart; stick closely (6)
51 Sets of villains' portraits (6,9)
54 Collarbones (9)
57 Gallantry award; *egged morale (anag.)* (6,5)
59 Carefully checking (9)
60 Banter; corn husks (5)
62 Is more important than (9)
64 Immuniser against disease (7)
66 Vital (9)
67 Lover of Isolde (7)
68 Unofficial therapies (11,8)
69 Older man generous to young girl (5,5)
70 Tent cover; handbill (8)
71 Lover of Ariadne (7)

DOWN

1 Child minder (10)
2 Venetian craft (7)
3 State of being (9)
4 Creation of copies (11)
5 Go out for great time (5,3,4,3)
6 Of few words (8)
7 Island chain (11)
8 Camb. college; Irish county (5)
10 Not using both arms (3-6)
11 Uniform coat (5)
12 Grandee (9)
13 W London summer festival (7,4,8)
14 In unconcealed way (7)
15 Cheerfully careless (6)
23 Turban-like knot (5,4)
25 Polar (continent) (9)
27 Surfeit; what "one can't have"? (3,4,2,1,4,5)
29 Utterly erase (10)
30 A London legal society (5,3)
31 Cold-weather radiator additive (10)
33 Israeli parliament (7)
36 Pin for knocking down (7)
37 One carousing (8)
39 Cheap, fake (goods) (9)
40 Forthright, boldly confident (9)
42 Admission to voting rights (15)
48 San José their capital (5,6)
49 (Police station) case list (6,5)
50 Value, benefit (10)
52 Kitchen whisk (3-6)
53 Personal servant (5,4)
55 Inducement (9)
56 One full of energy, enthusiasm (4,4)
57 Space between vocal cords (7)
58 Frivolousness (6)
61 Idiotic (7)
63 A city; a cake; a jib sail (5)
65 Marine animal; Ballantyne's Island (5)

Chancery Division — Law Report April 2 1999 — Chancery Division

No right to sue on grape names

Antonio Muñoz Y Cia SA and Another v Frumar Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment March 26]

No recital in the relevant EEC Council Regulations, relating to the identification of grapes, had the effect of enabling a plaintiff, owning property rights in a particular strain, to sue a defendant who marketed that strain under a different name.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, in dismissing an action by the plaintiffs, Antonio Muñoz Y Cia SA and Superior Fruiticola SA, against Frumar Ltd and Redbridge Produce Marketing Ltd, in which Muñoz sought, inter alia, to enjoin Frumar from selling "Superior Seedless" grapes under the names "White Seedless", "Sult" or "Coryn".

Those Council Regulations, made with the objectives set out in article 39 and under articles 42 and 43 of the EC Treaty, were Regulations 1035/72/EEC (OJ 1972 L118/1), 823/87/EEC (OJ 1987 L84/59), 1730/87/EEC (OJ 1987 L163/25), 291/92/EEC (OJ 1992 L31/25), 2081/92/EEC (OJ 1992 L208/1) and 2200/96/EC (OJ 1996 L297/1)

Mr Martin Howe, QC and Miss Charlotte May for Muñoz; Mr Mark Platts Mills, QC, for Frumar.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that Muñoz held exclusive rights to grow and harvest in Spain "Superior Seedless" grapes ("SS"), a strain developed in the 1980s by Superior Farming Inc of USA, under a Spanish patent.

Frumar sold seedless grapes in the United Kingdom under the names "White Seedless", "Sult" and "Coryn". Recent DNA tests on "Coryn" grapes had led Frumar to accept that they were "SS" and after the first day of the trial it had told Muñoz that it was, for the purpose of this action only, willing to accept that both "White Seedless" and "Sult" also were "SS".

Nonetheless Frumar contended that nobody could be sure what "SS" were, that DNA tests were too complicated to be within its reasonable reach, that it wished to cross-examine Muñoz's expert witness, that the regulations were insufficiently transparent to be enforceable and that it had at all times acted with due diligence.

Just before Frumar's expert witness was due to give evidence, he and his report had been withdrawn. Two major issues had remained:

1 Did the relevant Council Regulations make the use of the variety name mandatory in relation to Frumar's grapes?

In his Lordship's view, the regulations required that any grape which was put on the market must bear its proper variety name, or its synonym, if that was listed. It followed that the only legitimate name which could have been used on Frumar's strains was "SS".

Article 3(1) of Regulation 2200/96 imposed upon Frumar, as holders of those products, a duty to label them properly. They had breached that duty.

2 Had Muñoz any right to sue in respect of those breaches?

European Regulations differed from ordinary English legislation in that recitals, often extensive, were set out, in order to identify the major considerations to be borne in mind and addressed; sometimes giving a much clearer indication of the legislative intent.

Here, the right to sue depended on:

(a) the extent to which, if at all, these regulations had direct effect; namely, could a private individual rely on them in the courts of member states, even if not implemented into the member's national legislation?

(b) whether that effect was "vertical", creating rights enforceable in the national courts between individuals and the State; or "horizontal", creating enforceable rights between individuals?

Mr Howe's main authorities fell into two groups: (i) *Scotch Whisky Association v JD Vintners Ltd* ([1997] Eu LR 446), *Scotch Whisky Association v Glen Kella Distillers Ltd* ([1997] Eu LR 455) and *Matthew Gloag & Sons Ltd v Welsh Distillers Ltd* ([1998] FSR 718), each concerned with EEC Regulation 1576/89 (OJ 1989 L160/1).

(ii) *Taittinger SA v Allbev Ltd* ([1993] FSR 641), the *Elderflower Champagne* case, in which the Court of Appeal decided that the purpose of EEC Regulation 823/87, as deduced from its recitals, was to protect the legitimate interests of wine-producers.

Mr Platts-Mills had cited *Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma v Asda Food Stores Ltd* (*The Times* December 4, 1998) which concerned an alleged breach of EEC Regulation 2081/92 and an Italian law of 1990, designed to enable the relevant Italian ministry to make use of a consortium of producers to control use of protected designations of origin.

The Court of Appeal did not have to consider whether that regulation was intended to bestow a civil right of action, but had concluded the contrary.

As to the relevant regulations, Mr Howe had relied upon the recitals in two each of Regulations Nos 1035/72 and 2200/96, but all were very different from the recitals in the *Whisky* and *Elderflower Champagne* cases and none, whether taken alone or in conjunction with others, went anywhere near suggesting that one of the legislative objects behind them was the creation of rights enforceable by customers or individual traders.

Their objective was not to protect any particular goodwill, but to ensure that grapes reached the market in good condition and that customers were told what they were getting; a conclusion reinforced by analysis of the rest of their provisions.

Mr Howe had pointed out that quality standards could be enforced in the UK by the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods but that missed the point.

The inspectorate's remit, and doubtless that of equivalent other bodies abroad, was not to advance any one trader's interest but to create and police suitable customer protection measures.

So although Muñoz had acted correctly in complaining about the mis-marking of its products and in asking the inspectorate to intervene, the inspectorate's failure to act could not justify the creation of any new right enforceable by Muñoz.

In the result, Muñoz's action failed: but since Frumar had lost on every single factual issue fought, his Lordship would order Frumar to pay to Mu$oz 25 per cent of its costs of the action.

Solicitors: Hewitson Becke & Shaw, Cambridge; Cheyney Goulding, Guildford.

Lifetime gift reduces share

In re the Estate of Marjorie Langdon Cameron (Deceased)

Before Mr Justice Lindsay

[Judgment March 24]

Where a testatrix made a lifetime gift to her son's child it gift could fairly be seen as intended for the substantial benefit of the son, that gift partially revoked the son's share in the testatrix's estate. The lifetime gift to the child, made on the testatrix's behalf pursuant to an enduring power of attorney, was a valid exercise of that power.

Mr Justice Lindsay so held in the Chancery Division when determining questions raised by the plaintiff, Peter David Phillips, executor of the estate of Marjorie Langdon Cameron and the first defendant Donald Cameron.

Alistair Cameron, Hamish Cameron and Iain Hugh Craig Cameron were the second to fourth defendants respectively.

Section 3 of the Enduring Power of Attorney Act 1985 provides:

"(4) ... an attorney under an enduring power ... [may] act under the power so as to benefit himself or other persons other than the donor to the following extent ... (a) he may so act ... if the donor might be expected to provide for his or that person's needs ... and (b) he may do whatever the donor might be expected to do to meet those needs.

Miss Teresa Peacocke for the plaintiff; Miss Nicole Sandells for the first defendant; Mrs Elspeth Talbot Rice for the second, third and fourth defendants.

MR JUSTICE LINDSAY said that in June 1974 Mrs Cameron executed a will in which the whole of her net estate was divided into four equal shares, one each absolutely for her four sons Donald, Iain, Alistair and Hamish.

In 1979 Mrs Cameron was diagnosed as having a condition which caused a progressive deterioration in her mental capacity. She executed an enduring power of attorney, under which Alistair, Hamish and Iain were jointly appointed to be her attorneys with general authority to act on her behalf in relation to all her property and affairs.

In January 1991 an educational trust was established by the attorneys for the benefit of Donald's son Jamie. It was the intention of the attorneys that that provision would be taken into account against Donald's share in his mothers estate.

After Mrs Cameron's death in 1992, Donald contended that a lifetime gift made without his consent or knowledge for Jamie could not be taken into account when calculating his share of the residue. The executors then issued an originating application seeking the court's ... ary estate was adeemed [partially revoked] by the provisions for Jamie's education.

His Lordship said that the case raised the following points:

1 Were the lifetime gifts made in 1991 by the attorneys made in the valid exercise of the enduring power of attorney granted to them?

Miss Sandells argued that in the circumstances Mrs Cameron was not expected to provide for Jamie's education and that it was not a need of either Donald or Jamie.

In his Lordship's judgment, Jamie's education was a need within section 3(4) (a) and (b). As Mrs Talbot Rice submitted, education for a child was so fundamental that it was provided by the state. In the circumstances, the attorneys reasonably concluded that Mrs Cameron might have been expected to make provision for Jamie's education.

Moreover, the provision which the attorneys made on her behalf were of a kind which she might have been expected to make both to confer some benefit on Donald and to meet the need to provide an education for Jamie.

2 Was the legacy to Donald in Mrs Cameron's will adeemed by that provision made for his sons education?

If both a gift by will to a donee and a later lifetime gift by the testator to the same donee were pure bounty then, in the absence of special circumstances, the latter gift would not be taken to be a substitute (adeem) for the former and the donee would thus be able to take both. An example of a special consideration to deny the gift the character of pure bounty was where the gift was a portion.

Despite the long use of the term "portion" in law, the word was not a term of art. It seemed that it was something given by the parent to establish the child in life or make provision for him.

Where the basic ingredients of a possible portion were present, the question of whether or not a gift was in fact a portion depended on the donor's intention.

Miss Sandells argued that for a gift to be a portion the donor must be father of the donee or in loco parentis to the donee and that a mother, such as Mrs Cameron, was not to be taken to be in loco parentis to her children unless it was proved that she had undertaken the office.

There was authority for that view in *Ex parte Pye* ((1811) 18 Ves & Jun 140) where Lord Eldon spoke of a person in loco parentis being in the situation of the person described as the lawful father of the child.

However, in his Lordship's judgment ... Women's Property Acts, the better view now was that it sufficed for a gift to be capable of being a portion that it was made by either parent for the benefit of the child.

If a portion was a gift intended to set up a child in life it might not be unreasonable in many circumstances to suppose that the parent would have had no intention to do that twice, thus there was a rebuttable presumption that the donor did not intend to give two portions to the same donee and that where he had made two gifts, both having the characteristics of a portion, then the latter would be presumed to adeem the former.

Citing *Ravenscroft v Jones* ((1864) 32 Beav 669) Miss Sandells submitted that it was fundamental to the operation of the rule against double portions that the two gifts must be in favour of the same donee.

His Lordship said that the authorities made clear that both ademption and the issue of whether a gift was a portion depended upon the donor's intent.

Accordingly, so long as both gifts were capable of being portions intended substantially to benefit the same person, there was no reason why they should not be regarded as such and why ademption should not occur by reason of the rule against double portions.

That was possible even where the provisions of the two portions differed even to the extent of the recipients being different. Accordingly, where both gifts were potentially portions, a legacy to A might in some circumstances adeem by an inter vivos gift the recipient of which was B.

At least, that could be so where the difference between A and B in relation to the donor was merely a child and a child of that child and where, in the circumstances, a gift to the grandchild could fairly be seen as intended for the substantial benefit of the child.

There was nothing exceptional in the law recognising that a disposition could be for a person's benefit even though it did not come to his hands.

Thus in the context of statutory or express powers of advancement, an exercise of the power could be regarded as for the benefit of the object of the power where his creditors were thereby paid off. It was no bar to an exercise of the power that the primary object neither requested nor consented to it.

Miss Sandells argued that taking such a view in relation to ademption represented an extension of the rule against double portions. There was no reported case in which a lifetime gift to A's child for his education has been held to have adeemed a gift to A in the will of A's parent.

His Lordship agreed with that proposition, nevertheless the rule against double portions was entirely judge-made and it was thus capable of being reformed in the course of decided cases to coincide with good sense and the ordinary transactions of mankind as they were from time to time seen to be.

In the instant case the gift in the will to Donald was a substantial amount and constituted a portion for Donald. As to the inter-lifetime provision, a payment made for Jamie's education would pro tanto discharge Donald's moral or legal obligation to maintain Jamie and see to his education. Accordingly both gifts were portions in favour of Donald and the rule against double portions thus applied.

Solicitors: Mills & Reeve, Norwich; Bell & Howe, Witham; Radcliffes.

No liability over common-sense task

Devizes Reclamation Company Ltd v Chalk

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President and Lord Justice Swinton-Thomas

[Judgment February 24]

No liability arose where an experienced labourer, acting on his own initiative, injured his back in performing a one-off task requiring the use of common sense and for which no instructions could appropriately have been given.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the defendant, Devizes Reclamation Company ... ble for damages for personal injury to the plaintiff, Philip Michael Chalk, and attributing 40 per cent contributory negligence to Mr Chalk.

The court held that the judge had erred in law in concluding that the defendant was in breach of its common law duty to provide a safe system of work while failing to make any finding on what guidance should have been given and how that would have prevented the accident.

Mr Simon Freeland for Devizes Reclamation; Mr Guy Opperman for Mr Chalk.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON- ... defendants where the plaintiff was employed as a labourer.

A large lump of lead fell off a pallet while being unloaded from a lorry. It was necessary to move the lead so, on his own initiative, the plaintiff bent down to slew it round and felt a sudden sharp pain in his back.

In his statement of claim the plaintiff had alleged that the defendants had failed properly or at all to train him how to move heavy objects.

The judge below had found that the plaintiff had been given no instructions on how heavy objects should be moved and on that basis the defendants were in breach of the common law duty to provide a ... tified what instructions should have been given, nor had the plaintiff been able to suggest any.

It was common ground that this was not a lifting case: nor was it one that involved a system of work.

On the facts it was impossible to find negligence without ascertaining what the instructions should have been and it was difficult to see what possible instruction would have been relevant in a one-off situation where the plaintiff was doing something on his own initiative and when he should have been using his common sense.

Accordingly the appeal would be allowed.

Sir Stephen Brown delivered a concurring judgment.

Mismatch potential

***Summit Financial Group Ltd* v Slaughter & May (a Firm)**

If the drafting of the two parts of a document was split between different departments of a legal firm, there was a potential for a mismatch between the two; to avoid which it was essential for someone with sufficiently general legal experience to have overall responsibility for reviewing the document as a whole, with a view to seeing that it worked and achieved the commercial bargain it was intended to achieve.

Mr Justice Rimer so held in the Chancery Division on March 12, when, inter alia:

... the plaintiff in failing to advise it of the true effect of an agreement executed on July 17, 1987 between it and ATC Property Ltd.

(ii) rejecting (a) a claim by the defendant that the plaintiff should have sought rectification of that agreement, (b) a plea of contributory negligence and (c) a defence under the Limitation Act 1980.

(iii) finding that the strong probabilities were, that had the defendant, as the plaintiff's solicitors, not failed in its duty to raise a particular and crucial drafting point with ATC, prior to execution of that agreement, ATC would have agreed to amend it, the plaintiff's ...

media times

The making of a 'broadloid'



Former Sun Editor **Stuart Higgins** helped to launch a new Turkish paper designed to combine the qualities of a broadsheet and tabloid

Just as Posh Spice was about to deliver her son, little Brooklyn, I was involved in a gynaecological challenge of my own — helping to give birth to a Turkish daily morning newspaper, *The Star*.

Its delivery, too, was not without problems, but by 9am the following day a "sell-out" was triumphantly reported — good news, of course, but it also meant that we should have printed more than the 600,000 copies that rolled off the presses at seven print centres.

The TV-supported promotion — a free box of Pringles (worth £1.35) for every reader — helped, although the switchboard lit up with calls from angry readers who claimed that retailers were refusing to part with their crisps after they had paid their 130,000 lire (about 25p) for their newspaper.

The Star — the only Turkish-language newspaper with an English name published in Istanbul — was designed as a "broadsheet tabloid", with all the journalistic aggression of *The Sun* and *The Mirror* touched by humour, a distinctive and noisy political view of life and expansive use of great photos. Its daily rivals — *Milliyet*, *Hurriyet* and *Sabah* — all broadsheets and each selling just over 200,000 — are weighted down with pages of economic news and "deep news", as it translates for us Brits.

The idea was to break away from the traditional format and create a new market to lure tabloid-type readers, who like a constant, appetising blend of the light and dark, serious and humorous, throughout their newspaper rather than a "signposting" of designated areas that readers might visit and others that they might ignore. I have tried to bring my *Sun* experience to the process, explaining how important it is that this new daily embrace its readers, luring them with a cocktail of great stories, inspirational writing, irresistible promotions and the best soccer coverage in town. (Given that only three of the editorial staff speak English. I am sure that my enthusiasm lost a little in the translation.) I ventured on with more ideas for attracting readers — setting up ways for them to participate via letters pages, e-mail addresses and fax lines to gauge reaction and provide partisan opinion on key issues. I slipped into stormy waters as I tried to explain to colleagues the principles behind the "You The Jury" poll, in which readers vote "yes" or "no" on a particular subject.

> 'We've got a front page. Good job I fixed that bomb'

To illustrate the concept, I used a dummy page of *The Star* containing a photo of a near-naked lapdancer sliding provocatively down a pole. I then suggested getting an outspoken columnist to declare: "This is disgusting and outrageous and should be banned." Then readers would be invited to vote on the issue: "Shall we ban lap dancing in Turkey?" One voice — in English — said: "I have a better idea. The question will be 'Shall we declare war on Greece?' ". *The Star*'s proprietor, Cem Uzan, was joking, but he had the right idea about how to catch readers' attention.

Turkish newspapers are obsessed with politics. But judging by the low circulations, the nation's 64 million population does not share their view. Turkey has 25 political parties with only subtle differences in their policies. The obsession is reflected in each newspaper, with up to eight columnists pontificating each day on the minutiae of the actions of the Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit, and the Ankara Government. Elections are due to be held on April 18.

The country is gripped by its own battles against the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), which is fighting for an independent Kurdistan state, with car bombs placed indiscriminately in shopping centres and vowing revenge for the incarceration of its leader, Abdullah Ocalan, who was brought back from Kenya to Turkey to face trial for the deaths of some 30,000 people during the Kurdish insurgency.

On the eve of publication we sifted through the various *Blue Peter* splashes — ones we made earlier that would at least allow *The Star* to hit its 6.30pm printing deadline — but all were discarded when a car bomb exploded at lunchtime in the Carousel shopping area. The Editor-in-Chief, Fatih Cekirge, was ecstatic in the spontaneous way that only a newspaperman can be at such outrages. "We've got a front page," he announced. "Good job I fixed that bomb!" he added with a big smile, unaware that a man had died but absorbed with the all-consuming passion and decision-making demands that a big story creates in a newsroom, especially on a newspaper's first day of publication. His sense of relief at a breaking story was shared with the staff, who suddenly realised that they were in business and had to produce a real newspaper. We compared the front pages the following day and, predictably, concluded that *The Star*'s was by far the best because of the way the car bomb photo was used. The photographer, Kemal Onder, a veteran of 30 years, had quit another job to join *The Star* that morning and had been passing just as the bomb exploded. That was another cause for celebration. "It's a lucky day," said Fatih.

The Turkish newspapers are, by British standards, usually a paintbox of bright colours, which makes them difficult to read and sometimes confuses the reader as to which is the dominant story on the page. But they started using colour years before British newspapers and are often refreshingly unrestrained in their use of it, especially on the sports pages.

They were also swift to recognise the value of linking up with or establishing a partnership with their own television station. In the case of *The Star* it is Star TV, a perfect ally for cross-promotion and joint use of resources. It is also the growth of television that is blamed for keeping down newspaper circulations.



star
11 MART 1999 PERŞEMBE
İŞTE O AN

SAAT: 13.15 CAROUSEL
star ORADAYDI
SAAT: 20.40 ATRİUM
star ORADAYDI

Merhaba

FATİH ÇEKİRGE

PKK'ya 80 füze
Milliyet
Terörün çırpınışı



Nur içinde yat
SABAH
Neler oluyor?
Hoca'dan iptale YEŞİL IŞIK



Hürriyet
ALÇAKLAR
Baba'dan Atina'ya
kardeşlik imzası

The dramatic first front page of *The Star*, the new Turkish-language "broadloid" daily, and, right, the opposition

Price of Cleese failure

THREE ad agencies are licking their wounds after losing high-profile clients. Supermarket giant Sainsbury's has punished Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO for the failure of the John Cleese TV commercials by appointing M&C Saatchi to work on a new £25 million summer campaign. **Marketing Week** says AMV could lose another key account, Volvo, if the proposed takeover by Ford goes ahead. Bates Dorland has frozen directors' bonuses worth some £5 million after losing business from Heinz, Texaco and Compaq. And **Campaign** reports that Banks Hoggins O'Shea/FCB has axed 12 staff after losing the £9 million Kimberley-Clark account.

■ BEING business editor at *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday* is a short-term business. **PR Week** reports that Andrew Cornelius, who filled the role on the daily title, is leaving after eight months to return to PR agency Citigate Dewe Rogerson, while the Sunday paper's Patrick Weever has left after



holding the job for less than a month.

■ A COMMERCIAL for Emap Metro's new magazine *Heat*, which showed its readers engulfed in flames, has been banned by the Independent Television Commission. **Media Week** reports that the ads, devised by Bartle Bogle Hegarty, attracted 318 complaints, including 53 from people who had been involved in fires and did not see the joke.

■ CHANGING FACES: Martin Runnacles quits as Rover's top marketing man on eve of launch of the crucial 75 model **(Marketing)**. Matt Tee, head of PR at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital Trust, to be head of news at Dept of Trade and Industry **(PR Week)**. Kirstie Milne, political editor of *Sunday Herald* in Glasgow, to freelance for *The Scotsman*; Jackie Newcombe steps down as publishing director of IPC's home interest titles **(Press Gazette)**.

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: Le Fevre Communications wins PR contract for Lloyds TSB credit cards; Sega Europe appoints Bell Pottinger to run corporate press and PR **(PR Week)**. TBWA GGT Simons Palmer wins account for Dr Martens first major advertising campaign **(Campaign)**.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

Anyone for the BBC's tennis?

Maggie Brown's MEDIA DIARY

HORRORS! Is the BBC about to lose its exclusive hold over Wimbledon? The television rights expire after this summer's tournament, and tension is running high.

After Easter the All England Lawn Tennis Club will invite potential broadcasters — Sky Television, ITV, Channel 4 — to pitch for a new contract that could run for up to five years. A nervous BBC has just pledged to extend broadcasts this summer and to provide cameras to an extra seventh court.

Two weeks ago its new free digital channel, BBC Choice, gave a demonstration to club executives about how it will screen extra matches and freshen up coverage alongside BBC1 and BBC2. Its chiefs are acutely aware that Channel 4 "snatched" Test cricket because the England and Wales Cricket Board fancied its innovative approach. The Government last year altered the protected "listed events" sporting rules. The Wimbledon finals, an "A" category listed event, could switch to a pay channel, (but not pay-per-view) provided that extended access was also given to a free-to-air service.

The semi-finals are on a less important "B list". The Government seems sanguine about some kind of mixed Sky and BBC deal if it meant the extra broadcasting money was dispensed among the grass roots — the Lawn Tennis Association gained £32 million last year from Wimbledon.

The BBC now screens only 150 hours out of 500 hours covered, but it acts as host broadcaster, sending on footage worldwide. "Although the BBC does a very good job, we can't stand still," says Ian Edwards, the All England TV marketing director.

Quite a few dispassionate observers have told me in the past few weeks that the BBC's hold over Wimbledon is crumbling. A big headache for the new Director-General.

■ CHARLIE WHELAN, Gordon Brown's fallen spin-doctor, and Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, have had a bit of a tiff. Banks is exceedingly displeased with last Sunday's front-page story in *The Observer* — where Whelan has a column — about a scheme to give honours to the overlooked 1966 World Cup football winners Nobby Stiles, Gordon Banks and Martin Peters.

It appears that this was a discreet but behind-the-scenes hobby-horse of Tony Banks. Patrick Wintour, *The Observer's* political editor, was able to share it with the world, allowing the tabloids, led by *The Sun*, to take up the campaign enthusiastically. How did it turn up in *The Observer*? Well, Whelan and Wintour went to lunch.

The publicity is seen as a failsafe way to rile 10 Downing Street, where these honours decisions — in new Labour's way — are taken. Perhaps Banks should relax. *The Sun* can hardly be spurned.

Meanwhile, Whelan's media career expands as he joins Radio 5 Live's *Sunday Service* this weekend. It pitches him bang opposite rival fallen spin-doctor Derek Draper on Talk Radio.

■ MUCH discussion about how the British Press Awards can redeem itself from the gutter. Even *The Guardian*'s Hilton Hotel suite for party revels became so noisy that the manager asked them to call it a night at 3.30am. One answer: it always used to be at lunchtime, with a finite end, as the next day's deadlines beckoned. At the *Press Gazette*, the event's organiser, there's been heart-searching but Philippa Kennedy, its new Editor, is understanding: "National newspaper journalists are thoroughbreds, at the top of their profession and highly competitive."

Kennedy says she has been flooded with apologies. Piers Morgan, the Editor of *The Mirror*, "sent me the biggest bunch of flowers I've ever had".

My view? Apart from memorial services and awards ceremonies, national journalists rarely gather, outside of their papers, en masse. Unlike broadcasting, there are no regular industry meeting places where ethics or trends are discussed. So throw 700 journalists, divided into tribal camps, into a hotel room with unlimited amounts of booze and you end up with drunken brawls.

■ SPOTTED: that svelte public relations doyenne, Julia Hobsbawm, back at work three days a week, showing her baby snaps to Amanda Platell at *The Observer's* packed-out spring party this week.

"Oh, you're so lucky," says Platell, who remains completely unfazed by the furore surrounding her new appointment as William Hague's spin-doctor.

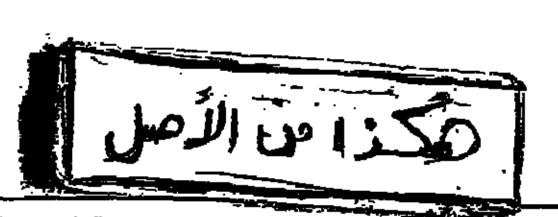
"It's my knowledge of how national newspapers really work that counts," she says.

■ I RECENTLY saw Geoffrey Robinson, the fallen Treasury Minister, acting as a commentator for *Sky News* on the Budget. I hear he's also expending surplus energy running the commercial side of his publishing empire, and the *New Statesman* is assuredly not up for sale. He also has a tendency to burst in with good ideas to the Editor, Peter Wilby — on Wednesdays, just as the magazine goes to press.

■ CHANNEL 4 rushed to welcome the performance review of its programming by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) this week. But privately I'm told that the ITC is "disappointed" at the slowness of Channel 4's Chief Executive, Michael Jackson, in bringing change. Observers believe he was thrown by Channel 4's lack of an in-house production base to put flesh on his ideas.

■ SIR JOHN BIRT is planning several high-profile events to remind people how he saved the BBC. One likely forum is a keynote speech to this autumn's Royal Television Society Convention in Cambridge. But surely it's an opportunity for a broadcaster to screen a big interview: Channel 4 ought to jump at it. By the way, Alan Yentob's call for quality BBC programming has gone down very well in political quarters. It's regarded as long overdue.

● *maggiebrown.media@btinternet.com*



Kosovo, this is London calling

Their fellow countrymen may be locked in conflict, but a Serb and an Albanian are working closely at the BBC's Bush House to bring a vital news service to the war zone. **Carol Midgley** reports



DAMIR SAGOLJ

Albanian children weep as they wait outside the registration centre in Skopje after being expelled from Kosovo. Below: Aleksej Zoric and Julia Goga-Cooke

Of the hundreds of journalists covering the conflict in Yugoslavia, few could claim as avid an audience as Julia Goga-Cooke and Aleksej Zoric.

While neither can boast the notability of Kate Adie or John Simpson in this war, both are performing what could currently be described as two of the most anonymous but crucial jobs in the BBC.

While the conflict escalates, Goga-Cooke, an Albanian, and Zoric, a Serb, are working side by side in the bowels of Bush House, the London headquarters of the World Service.

In adjacent studios they and their staff now make eight broadcasts a day in Albanian and Serbian, providing for their audiences that most precious commodity of wartime — information.

With local media restricted by the Serb authorities (the independent Belgrade radio station B-92 has been closed down), the World Service is increasingly proving to be the only reliable source of information for all those people caught in the war zone who do not have access to satellite television.

Unlike the majority of journalists working on the story, however, Goga-Cooke, 42, and Zoric, 53, have a personal stake in the events. Many of their team of World Service journalists have friends and family scattered throughout the crisis zones.

A few days ago, one of the Albanian broadcasters at Bush House found himself having to announce the reported killing and obituary of Fehmi Agani, a Kosovo politician and negotiatior whom he had known personally.

The team offered to get someone else to take over his broadcast but he insisted on going ahead with it. "I have cried my tears in private," he told Goga-Cooke, the Editor of the Albanian section. "I want to carry on and do my job." (Reports now indicate that Agani is, in fact, alive.)

"The most difficult part of covering the war is worrying about the safety of journalists over there and the fact that some of our team have all their family in the middle of it," Goga-Cooke says. "Managing the emotions and the worry has been our biggest problem. But you just get on with it."

Since the conflict in Kosovo began, the different sections at the World Service have worked as a team as their output has doubled. Information obtained separately by the Serbian, Albanian, Bulgarian and Macedonian journalists is pooled every day at the morning editorial meeting.

"We have very strong links," Goga-Cooke says. "I work closely with Aleksej. It is very important that we exchange information. We are very close, co-operating round the clock. We were the first to get news of 170 refugees who arrived over the Albanian border on Saturday."

> We try to convey that there is suffering on both sides

Zoric, 53, the Editor of the Serbian section, says: "The tone of our reports may be slightly different — we each put the accent on the interests of our audience — but we are sharing information.

"We are trying to convey that there is real suffering on both sides. If Albanian babies are crying because they are cold, Serbian babies may be crying because they are woken by the bomb blasts or the sirens. We know that some kids in Belgrade start vomiting when they hear the sirens."

Zoric moved with his American wife from Yugoslavia to London to work for the BBC in 1991, when the crisis began. He has a 27-year-old daughter who is a journalist in the United States and a son, 23, who lives in London. But his father, brother and sister-in-law are still living in Belgrade and going through the daily ritual of fleeing to shelters whenever the sirens are sounded.

Goga-Cooke has a 23-year-old son from her first marriage who lives in Albania and a daughter, 21, who is a student in Britain. A former English teacher and United Nations programme development worker, she moved to London in 1993 to work for the BBC's Albanian-language service. She has remarried and also has a 16-month-old daughter.

With such a sudden increase in their workload to contend with, many of the team have found themselves literally working day and night. The broadcasts they produce can be picked up on short wave, on FM and through some local radio stations, such as Radio Prilep in Macedonia, that have agreed to carry the World Service broadcasts. Many people also obtain information about the war from the World Service website.

"The most difficult thing has been keeping our emotions out of it," Zoric says.

"You have shared loyalty to your family, your country and your profession, but you want to present the facts accurately and impartially."

Most people in Yugoslavia, he says, have no real idea of what is happening in their country.

"You know for a fact that they know nothing about what is going on in Kosovo, or that thousands of Albanians are pouring over the border. They do not know about the actions of the Yugoslav Army. So we try to get as much actuality as we can in our reports.

"You cannot be completely unemotional or you sound artificial — you want to be balanced but you don't want to be cold."

There is also the danger of accepting spin as fact. The smallest mistake in a report can mean the difference between hope and utter despair for anxious listeners.

"Because of who our audience is and the sensitivity of the situation, we have to be so, so careful that we don't present claims as fact," Zoric says.

"The BBC has the reputation of being a beacon of truth in war situations. So if you make a mistake, you destroy the credibility that has been built up over generations."

RICHARD CANNON



Breaks for the Border

Granada's tiny neighbour still has big plans, says **Raymond Snoddy**

SIMON BROOK-WEBB



Border TV's Jim Graham: "We have never understood that we are small"

the media interview

Border Television has been called "Granada's pet lamb". It has also been pointed out that there are more sheep than people in the television region that covers areas on the border between England and Scotland, with the Isle of Man tacked on. And in an age of communication giants, Border appears to be an anachronism as the smallest independent ITV company apart from tiny Channel TV.

"Border has never been able to look in a mirror," says Jim Graham. "We have never understood that we are small. We have always had a bigger voice." Graham was a rugby league reporter for Border when it first went on air 38 years ago, before becoming managing director in 1982 after a spell at the BBC.

Even from the beginning, Border was seen as a risky anomaly. After the Granada, Scottish and Tyne Tees ITV licences had been awarded, there was a gap along the border. Sir John Burgess, the chairman of the local Cumbrian Newspapers group, put together a consortium to bid for a licence.

Graham, now 65, believes that the Carlisle-based station makes a lot of social sense. "If you carry a story about a lifeboat in trouble in Berwick, they understand that in the Isle of Man and in Dumfries. They are a collection of people with similar interests and they all watch each other's stories," he says. But Border's big neighbour, Granada, is on the move again. It already controlled everything to the south of Border. Now, by buying the Mirror Group's [illegible]

Then Granada would control everything from John O'Groats to the Midlands — except for the 680,000 Border viewers. Granada's tanks could cross into Border any time they wanted.

"After the Scottish deal, I took a bottle of border malt to Charles Allen [Granada's Scottish chief executive] and said 'welcome back to Scotland'," says Graham, who has developed a good working relationship with his larger neighbour. He points out that not only does Granada sell Border's advertising time, it also transmits its programmes. The two companies made an unsuccessful bid for the Tyne Tees licence in 1991.

In fact, the Independent Television Commission could have wiped Border off the map before the last licence round, by redrawing the geography of British broadcasting. It did not do so because Border is a quoted public company that also happens to get 60 per cent of the television audience in its region — vying with Ulster for the highest ratings in ITV. There would also have been a huge row if Border had either disappeared as a franchise or lost its licence. Local viewers included Lord Whitelaw and Sir David Steel. Local Cumbrian lad Melvyn Bragg, now Lord Bragg, was chairman at the time.

Devolution could also have been the death knell of Border. After all, why not just give the Scottish bits to Scottish Television and the English bits to Granada? In fact, Border has not only defended its territorial integrity but believes that devolution will increase its importance. This month it will intro- [illegible] about devolution will remain common to both English and Scottish sectors.

Border feels increasingly shut out of national programme-making, which is dominated by the big battalions such as Granada, Carlton and United. But religious programming has been developed as a speciality, and *Blessed Are They*, a television version of the Beatitudes, even won a medal at the International Film and Television Festival of New York. Graham talks in a rather old-fashioned but unselfconscious way of making programmes that "touch men's hearts and move men's minds".

Paul Corely, the chief executive, has brought a wider perspective to bear. [illegible] rock and docusoaps. But the company's biggest breakthrough has been its move into commercial radio, even winning a radio licence in Granada's Manchester heartland.

Tiny Border is now in the top ten of radio companies, with licences in Cumbria, the North East and the East Midlands as well as the North West. It also plans to seek a London digital licence in alliance with Chrysalis, the music and media group.

But can a broadcaster with a turnover of £13.8 million and pre-tax profits of £1.2 million last year manage to keep its independence? "I think it can survive," says Lord Bragg. "It serves its region very well. And it's quite nice to [illegible]

Stott the difference?

After last week's attack by Richard Stott, The Mirror Editor **Piers Morgan** defends his paper

For six years Richard Stott has simmered with rage about his sacking from the editorship of *The Mirror*. Only now has he chosen to make his vicious opinions public. He had absolutely nothing nice to say about anyone or anything except himself. But since he wishes to get personal, forgive me if I return the favour.

During his second and last term of editorship of *The Mirror* from March 1991 to November 1992, the sale of the paper collapsed by 256,000 copies, or 8.6 per cent.

Stott is mystified by David Montgomery's decision to fire him, insisting: "The paper was going well."

Well? I wouldn't like to see how it sold during a bad period. Is it possible, Richard, that your special brand of supposedly crusading, campaigning, we-love-all-things-Old-Labour journalism was one of the biggest turn-offs to a newspaper readership? I understand his resentment at being fired. It's not happened to me yet, but I'm sure it's unpleasant. I do, though, find his remarks about *Mirror* managers filling their boots with cash a bit rich coming from a man who has had such large sums in pay-offs. Or did it all go to the miners?

His tirade against Montgomery is predictable. I worked with David for three years and I liked him. He helped us to achieve success on *The Mirror* by giving me the cash I needed.

I didn't agree with some of the things he did, some of the people he fired or some of his [illegible] believe he helped to rescue *The Mirror* from the pits of Maxwell — when one Richard Stott allowed his proprietor to turn the paper into a mouthpiece for his own image. Who can forget Stott's touching front page tribute to the "Man who saved the Mirror" when the fat old Czech crook died.

Stott has always wanted his old job back. Kelvin MacKenzie, then deputy chief executive of Mirror Group, politely declined a suggestion to make him editor again in my place. I've no idea why, except that a funny thing has happened to *The Mirror* recently. We sold more papers in 1998 than in 1997, for instance. Stott is clearly baffled as to how this could have happened. After all, we have no good writers, we have no political nous and our relationship with the Labour leadership is based on "tantrums".



Hmmm, I'm sure he's right but does he actually read Anton Antonowicz, who was Foreign Writer of the Year in 1998? Or Brian Reade, whose outstanding work on the Omagh story moved the *Press Gazette* judging panel to tears? Or Des Kelly, our sports editor last week voted Sports Columnist of the Year. Or Charlie Catchpole, our brilliantly populist TV critic. Or Sue Carroll, whose empathy with real *Mirror* readers is reflected by her massive mailbag. I could go on, and I will. Gill Swain, Victor Lewis-[illegible] Tony Parsons, Quentin Wilson, Paul Routledge. Add the talents of James Whitaker, Matthew Wright, our *Sorted* investigators and the best feature writers and news reporters I've ever worked with.

As for our politics, we don't suck up to Labour so much any more. Stott made an art form out of it.

I know he briefs everyone from Alastair Campbell to Roy Greenslade on my political shortcomings. And I don't care. I have no problem with Labour. I enjoy regular harmonious meetings with Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, and even Campbell seems to be thawing a bit despite his allegiance to Stott.

I do care about politics. I do believe in Tony Blair and I did vote Labour at the last election. I also believe *The Mirror* should be a critical friend and not a PR extension of No 10. Our readers know that our heart and soul still lies behind Labour and always will.

Stott ends his article by asking who can make *The Mirror* sing again. Readers of *The Times* will have been left in no doubt that there is only one candidate — Richard Stott. But the truth is that *The Mirror* IS singing again, only to a different song-sheet.

Life has moved on, Richard. We are not the bitter, cynical, ranting Labour PR sheet that you put out most days. Nor do I edit the paper from any bar I can find at lunchtime. Nor is *The Mirror* losing readers any more, the way you lost them.

● *According to ABC circulation figures* The Mirror *sold 0.7 per* [illegible]

And now it's Miami spice

The Spice Girls' former Svengali is back with a new group — and they can even act. **Chris Ayres** reports on the band and their upcoming TV show

Ever since the Spice Girls employed their famous Girl Power to get rid of Simon Fuller as manager — with an estimated £15 million payoff — the pop music supremo has been rather quiet. All that will change next Thursday when Fuller launches his latest act, described as a "21st-century version of The Monkees", complete with their own 13-episode BBC1 television series.

The seven-piece act, with the unlikely name of S Club 7, is one of the most ambitious cross-media entertainment projects launched so far in Britain. They even have a mawkish slogan to match that of Girl Power: "Everybody is a Somebody."

Fuller calls S Club 7 "a new concept in youth culture". What he really means, however, is a new concept in youth marketing: the aim of S Club 7 is to capitalise simultaneously on several different markets, taking in television, music, the Internet and fashion.

> S Club 7 is in fact a new concept in youth marketing

Those close to Fuller say that he has spent the past two years searching for a collection of multi-talented young people to launch a modern-day version of The Monkees, the American pop group launched in the Sixties with their own TV show. Fuller is said to have become frustrated with the Spice Girls' lack of all-round ability, in particular their limited acting skills (documented in horrific detail in *Spiceworld — The Movie*).

In contrast, the members of S Club 7 all have proven acting ability. Given their ages — between 16 and 22 years old — they also have impressive CVs. Tina Barrett, for example, is a former *Top of the Pops* dancer, while Jon Lee played the part of Josh in *EastEnders* for two years.

After finding the right people to form S Club 7, 37-year-old Fuller teamed up with the BBC and Initial TV — the production company partly owned by Guardian Media Group that makes *The Pepsi Chart* and *The Brit Awards* — to help to launch the project. Christopher Pilkington, an executive producer at Initial, says: "I was interested to see if S Club 7 could play out a comedy script. I took it for granted that they could perform their music. It soon became clear that they were head and shoulders above the competition. Needless to say, they were all also drop-dead gorgeous."

The TV series starring the band, *Miami 7*, will go air at 5.10pm — peak time for children's viewing. The story follows a naive young band that cannot get gigs in the UK, so their despairing manager sends them to Miami where, he says, they will go down a storm. Instead, they end up having to take on menial jobs just to pay for their rooms in a ropey old hotel. To make matters worse, the hotel manager steals their passports and forces them to perform naff cover versions to entertain his guests.

It all sounds rather familiar, but Pilkington insists that it will be "a fantastic hit with our target audience". He has certainly taken no chances with the writing team: it includes Fuller's brother Kim, whose previous writing credits include *Spiceworld — The Movie*, *Red Dwarf* and *Spitting Image*; and Jenji Cohan, who has written for *Friends* and *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*.

The series will run for several weeks before the first S Club 7 single — expected to be titled *Bring It On Back* — is released in early June. Interestingly, the song will be released on the Polydor label (a British subsidiary of Universal Music in the US) instead of through EMI, the Spice Girls' record company. One music industry source says an album of 12 or 13 songs will be released after two singles. The album will "cover a range of styles, underscored by an optimistic, uptempo, Jackson Five gang feel". Fuller chose the music with Lucien Grainge, the managing director of Polydor.

Ajax Scott, the Editor of *Music Week*, the industry's main trade magazine in the UK, is one of the few people to have heard the album. He describes it as "contemporary pop of the highest order".

"Without the other elements it would do well," he says. "With them, and backed by the well-oiled, hit-breaking machine that is Polydor, it looks next to impossible that it will fail."

Already Fuller is planning his S Club 7 media blitz. It is understood that there are already plans for a film, an Internet membership club and, of course, plenty of sponsorship deals.

It is not yet clear what plans S Club 7 have for entering the fashion world, but a range of branded clothing seems an obvious option. And if Fuller's career with the Spice Girls is anything to go by, he can expect to collect a fat royalty from S Club 7's activities for several years — before being fired by the band and collecting a multimillion-pound payoff.

By then, of course, various members of S Club 7 could have left the band, become United Nations' special ambassadors, released successful solo singles or have become pregnant.

Well, that's showbusiness.

BBC

Tanned band: British pop outfit S Club 7 eke out an existence in a Florida hotel in the TV series *Miami 7*

Dyke gets a nod to go for D-G job

Greg Dyke, Chairman and Chief Executive of Pearson Television, is pushing ahead with his bid to become Director-General of the BBC. He has allowed his name to go forward to the next stage of the selection process that formally began last week.

Dyke, a multimillionaire as a result of a share scheme from his days as managing director of London Weekend Television, has been encouraged to go ahead with his bid by both Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman, and Downing Street. If there had been discouraging noises from either quarter he would not have allowed his name to go forward.

The Conservatives have made it clear they will make a Dyke candidacy a political issue because he contributed an estimated £12,000 to pay for the private office of Tony Blair before the last election. Dyke, however, made it clear that he has never made political contributions as a broadcaster and no payments will be made if he becomes Director-General.

If there is a row, Downing Street will point out that Sir Christopher had his term extended by Mr Blair even though he was chairman of the Conservative Bow Group when first appointed Chairman of the BBC.

If Dyke, who is also a non-executive director of Manchester United, were to become D-G, it would mean halving his present salary. Pearson's annual report published two days ago showed that Dyke had a total pay package of £768,000 last year. This included a one-off bonus of £275,000 in Pearson shares, which have to be held for three years but can be retained if he leaves Pearson.

The hopes of another aspirant for the BBC job, David Elstein, Chief Executive of Channel 5, seem to be fading. Elstein, the former director of programmes at Thames Television and Sky, did not submit a formal application by last Friday's deadline, although he has made it clear in the past that he wanted the job.

It is believed that Elstein has not yet been contacted by headhunters involved in the selection process. Backers have argued that the BBC desperately needs Elstein's knowledge of multichannel TV for an increasingly competitive age. Industry observers suggest that it might have been better tactics for the Channel 5 Chief Executive to submit a formal application rather than waiting for the phone to ring.

His chances will not have been helped by the Independent Television Commission criticising the "tackiness" of some of Channel 5's late night soft-porn shows and the lack of original drama apart from the soap *Family Affairs*. Ironically, Dyke is the Chairman of Channel 5.

Other candidates for D-G are Mark Byford, Chief Executive of BBC World Service, Matthew Bannister, Chief Executive of BBC Production, Tony Hall, Chief Executive of BBC News, and Richard Eyre, ITV Chief Executive.

RAYMOND SNODDY

ITV runs out of excuses

THE Independent Television Commission (ITC) was rather kind to ITV in its annual review of the performance of the commercial broadcasters this week. Unless there is a considerable improvement this year, the regulatory body should not make that mistake again.

The ITC, which specialises in exhortation rather than censure as long as the terms of licences have not been broken, gave ITV a generous eight out of ten for its output in 1998. ITV's determination to "refresh and revitalise its service in 1998" was praised and no one could complain about such a judgment.

But you don't have to burrow deeply into the text to find disturbing things about how a system that raises around £2.6 billion in annual revenue sets about producing a high-quality, diverse schedule.

Raymond Snoddy

Year after year, the ITC notes, the apparent ITV belief that *The South Bank Show*, with its all-inclusive view of the arts — from Wayne Sleep's 50th birthday to Will Self — is enough arts thank-you.

Last year the ITC criticised ITV — not for the first time — for meeting its commitment on arts programming with undistinguished late-night arts entertainment shows. And this year?

"Once again the schedule was padded out with cheap, late-night material, this time programmes of movie clips and pop videos. This is not acceptable," says the ITC. Indeed not. But when is the ITC going to do something about such a flagrant abuse of the system.

How about education? Last year the ITC commented on a further narrowing of the educational agenda with excessive concentration on daytime leisure topics. This year the ITC found no improvement apart from better support material for programmes such as *Chef School*. It also noted that there had been only one response to its invitation to develop a wider range of science output — the series *What Will They Think of Next*.

How about health? Apart from a good six-part series on the perils of fat, the only regular health education came in the *This Morning* strands. Social action programming? "Disappointing." But perhaps the most worrying aspect of ITV's performance is current affairs. As the ITC rather kindly noted 1998 was a year of transition in ITV current affairs.

What this meant was that *Big Story* was not recommissioned. *3-D* had only a short run and *World in Action* came to an end to be replaced by a new magazine programme from Granada. Before it went *World in Action* left no stone unturned investigating bad hotels, the contents of dog food — and a documentary on the Nairobi bombing aftermath.

The ITC says, rather plaintively, that it wishes to see the proportion of international material higher in 1999. If ITV had not been able to reply on the *We Can Work It Out* series, which will not be accepted under the current affairs classification this year, the average current affairs would have been 1 hour 25 minutes a week, the lowest on record.

If you add up all of ITV's inadequacies and prevarications, it is a disgrace. After giving it the freedom to move *News at Ten*, the ITC, if it is to retain its credibility, has to insist on a more comprehensive performance from ITV.

■ THOSE who complained that the BBC was pulling the wool over the eyes of the public and MPs when parliamentary programmes were dropped from Radio 4 FM or moved were right all along. When *Yesterday in Parliament* was dropped as a segment of the *Today* programme and dispatched to longwave, it was in the face of the disquiet from Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The results are in. According to the BBC's own figures, the weekly reach of *Yesterday in Parliament* has declined from 3.13 million in 1997 to 830,000 in 1998. Parliamentary coverage is also down by 20 per cent. Helpfully, the BBC notes that only 84 per cent of the population has access to longwave.

"The loss of reach to *Yesterday in Parliament* is broadly in line with the BBC's assessment in 1997," the corporation says in its *Review of Parliamentary Broadcasting*. I can't remember the BBC making that assessment public at the time. The emphasis then was on expansion of parliamentary broadcasting because the programmes that fewer people would hear would last longer. The move of *The Week in Westminster* from Saturday morning to Thursday evenings has also had predictable, consequences. The reach is now 227,000 compared with 658,000 in its Saturday slot.

LAST year the "outdoors" advertising industry was one of the fastest-growing media in terms of ad expenditure, with a year-on-year growth of 7.8 per cent. This was beaten only by the huge growth of radio advertising and the 8.9 per cent growth of business magazines. Radio expenditure was up by 15.9 per cent between 1997 and 1998, according to Advertising Association figures. However, UK advertisers' spending on "outdoor" last year was greater than that on radio: £543 million, compared with radio's £438 million.

Projections by the Outdoor Advertising Association (OAA) show that outdoor ads will slip back to a growth of 0.7 per cent from 1998 to 1999; the total ad expenditure of the UK is expected to slip into recession this year, down by 0.2 per cent on 1998. All figures for the outdoor market include ads on buses, the Underground, railway sites, taxis and airport sites. Bus and Underground advertising in the UK is sold by TDI, which is expecting a 10 per cent growth this year. TDI is bidding for the European outdoor advertising company, Avenir. After its success at last year's *Media Week* awards, TDI is confident that its performance in Europe will put it in a strong position in the discussions.

All display advertising media will be affected by economic conditions over the next two years, according to the OAA.

YEAR ON YEAR OUTSIDE ADVERTISING GROWTH EXPENDITURE

	1998	1999
OUTDOOR & TRANSPORT	7.8	0.7
TV	[illegible]	1.5
RADIO	15.9	6.9
NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS	[illegible]	-1.2
REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS	[illegible]	-1.8
CONSUMER MAGAZINES	[illegible]	-0.5
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINES	8.9	-2.5
TOTAL	[illegible]	-0.2

All figures at current prices. 1999 data are projections

Source: Outdoor Advertising Association

In Kiev they fine a journalist $1m and cut off all the phones

Journalists are facing increasing curbs on press freedom in Russia and its breakaway states — but trying to overcome the system is dangerous. Michael Foley reports

There is a monument outside Moscow's Central House of Journalists depicting a Soviet newsman wearing a military uniform, high boots and a cape. He has a camera slung round his neck and holds a notebook with pencil poised. It is dedicated to all the journalists who covered the Great Patriotic War.

The figure looks ahead as the snow settles on his notebook, military cap and moustache. His role is to bring honour and glory to the motherland and the Communist Party. Today few journalists are certain of a wage, let alone a status. Even the restaurant at the Central House, formerly a meeting place for writers and journalists, has been contracted out. Few members can afford to eat in it now.

None of this gloom is enough to stop a celebration, though, and the Russian Union of Journalists recently organised a conference and a number of receptions to celebrate its 80th anniversary. More than 200 delegates from journalists' unions throughout Russia and central Asia, Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic countries attended. They came from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. They included the associations that have sprung up to represent journalists who are working in the new and small independent media and who are fighting for press freedom.

The leaders of the old unions are survivors. Some were members of the Communist Party; in its new incarnation, the same party is calling for tighter control of the media. The older journalists are nostalgic for the time when they were certain of their role and of a good income. Now they call for press freedom and are linked to international organisations that were on the other side during the Cold War.

> The older journalists yearn for the time when they had status

But while the leadership was celebrating the survival of its union, even if as a shadow of its former Soviet self — the membership is half what it was — there was little else to commend. Seven years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, there is little press freedom.

From Kazakhstan to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Belarus and Ukraine, the story is a dismal one: tax laws are used to harass financially; there is a body of laws forbidding insults of those in high places; compulsory registration of the media is common. Many speakers related the appalling state of press freedom in their countries. And just to show that elections, or what passes for them, are bad for journalists, several who work with state-run news agencies in Kazakhstan reported that they were warned against writing stories critical of President Nursultan Nazarbayev in the campaign leading to the January 10 elections.

In Moscow the Russian union held a ceremony one evening where its president, Vsevolod Bogdanov, presented medals to the children of journalists who had died while reporting; a reminder that journalism is still a dangerous career in Russia.

> One newsman has not been paid for six months

Meanwhile, in Kiev, a journalist at a reception in a US diplomat's apartment says that he has been fined $1 million by the State. His newspaper is operating without telephones and has had to vacate its newsroom. The harassment of his paper means that he has not been paid for six months. Thankfully, his wife has a job.

He and other Ukrainian journalists have been invited so that a US visitor can be informed about press freedom. The Ukrainians seem amused at this interest in their media. I can't help wondering if they are thinking of the US media and the Clinton/Lewinsky coverage.

Kiev is a wonderful old city. Its stucco, pastel-coloured buildings glow in the light reflected by the snow. The opera house is magnificent and the audience at the ballet cheer and shout like soccer fans. It is also the Wild West.

A driver taking a group to the airport was not stopped by the many militia along the road. "My car is a good big car. They think I might be mafia," he says. The driver, who looks about 16, produces police identification. If they stop the car he has no intention of handing over a customary bribe. He has masses of other IDs, including a card to access the Parliament.

The main school of journalism in Ukraine is the Institute of Journalism at the Kiev Taras Shevchenko University. It is housed in the former Communist Party School. The place is like no other university anywhere: there is no graffiti; the females wear skirts and the males wear ties: there are no books or piles of papers that occupy desks and shelves. Discussion is similarly tidy. Academics and journalists read paper after paper at a seminar organised as part of an EU programme to aid journalists. Any questions were responded to with the comment that it would be dealt with later. Later never came.

Outside the institute journalists take two or more jobs to survive, but the militia were taking money, and flash foreign cars drove mafia through the city. With elections looming, human rights groups and journalists believe that press freedom is getting worse and that President Leonid Kuchma is moving closer to that ground occupied by President Aleksandr Lukashenka of neighbouring Belarus.

Journalists working in Minsk, the Belarus capital, fare worse than any in the former Soviet republics. President Lukashenka, a former collective farm manager, is largely shunned and cannot gain entry into the Council of Europe, a body that will embrace Turkey, Croatia and Ukraine. Independent newspapers are harassed and the biggest, *Svoboda*, has to be printed in Vilnius, in Lithuania.

There is little or no investment in the independent press. Only 1 per cent of the economy is in the private sector and in 1997 total foreign investment was only $40 million. The electronic media is almost all state-owned and the print media has to use state-owned printing plants where it is at the mercy of the authorities, as it is in its dealings with the state-run distribution system.

Sometimes one is left with the impression that Lukashenka is playing with the press. There is no doubt he could close it down if he chose; he prefers, instead, simply to make its life a misery.

The most recent case of harassment was of the Belarussian newspaper *Nasha Niva*, which was warned that it had violated press and media laws by deviating from the accepted form of spelling and punctuation. It was using a form common in the 1920s until it was banned by Stalin. The Supreme Court ruled in favour of the paper, but the chairman of the Committee on the Press, Mikhail Padgainy, has filed a complaint and a request that the court revoke its decision.

Back in Russia, the economic crisis has hit journalists in different ways. Regional newspapers have had to withdraw Moscow correspondents because of the costs. Some say this has placed them even more firmly under the thumb of the local authorities. Journalists are also more willing to write pieces about local politicians or business interests in return for a fee. "It's easy to be ethical when you're paid a wage," one said when Western journalists expressed horror.

There has, however, been an unexpected benefit from the economic crisis. Alexei Simonov, of the Glasnost Defence Foundation, which monitors media abuses and provides legal help, says that it has forced the media to be less obsessed with itself. Journalists have begun to understand that survival was not just a media problem but one that concerned the whole of society — a society waiting to be addressed.

Newspapers are now more relevant and have started to write "how to survive" stories. The number of titles has fallen, but total sales have increased. For the first time since the end of the Soviet Union people are buying newspapers because they are important to their lives.

The "least bad situation" is in Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, says Simonov. It is getting worse in Ukraine which, like Kazakhstan, seems to be closing media ranks with Belarus. Turkmenistan, he adds, is the worst case. In Armenia there is a free press, of sorts, but there are no laws; in Azerbaijan, as in Belarus, there is one-man rule and little room for press freedom.

● *Michael Foley is a media commentator at the* Irish Times *and a lecturer in journalism at the Dublin Institute of Technology. This is an extract from* Word Power, *published by Index on Censorship, £8.99; 0171-278 2313.*

YURI GRIPAS



Taking note of the changes: a statue of a Soviet reporter at the Central House of Journalists in Moscow

Give the red-tops a sporting chance

Was Neil Wallis, the Editor of the *Sunday People*, right in his rant against the judges of the British Press Awards, protesting forcefully from all accounts, that there was a bias against the journalism of the red-top tabloids?

Almost certainly. Slam-bang, straight-in-your-face, star-burst journalism, no matter how popular with readers, is less likely to appeal to a panel of distinguished journalists, even one that includes former tabloid editors, than a beautifully crafted piece presented with clever understatement.

But before Wallis launches into his next outrage, I ask that he look not too far from under his own nose and consider whether the red-tops, including his own, are really that interested in honours.

I have just chaired two panels of judges of the British Sports Journalism Awards, which have been running for 26 years and are supported by the Sports Writers' Association and Sport England, the new title of the English Sports Council. Of the five winners of the BSJA categories open to journalists on national papers, two were from *The Mirror*, two from *The Sunday Telegraph* and one from *The Times*. That clearly reflects where many of the best sports stories appeared last year (in *The Mirror* and *The Sunday Telegraph*) and where the best and/or most significant writing occurred (the sports editor of *The Mirror* was our Columnist of the Year).

We thought *The Mirror* had an outstanding year with its sports coverage, but where were its red-top rivals? Of the 116 entries, there was not one story from *The Sun* or the *News of the World*, not one from the *Sunday Mirror* and just one from Wallis's own paper.

It was not just a case of national journalists examining the navels of other national journalists. Judges included the publisher of a range of specialist sports magazines, the editor of the football magazine *On the Ball*, and the sports editor of *Time Out* — all under 40 years old — as well as active sports journalists on the nationals. "We are all people whose first look at the papers in the morning is usually at the sports pages where the stories break — the tabloids, more often than not. We all knew the environment: what was truly an exclusive news story, what was a good report filed under pressure, and what was a piece of feature writing that had genuine impact as well as literary worth.

I think that is our hint to the British Press Awards if they are more fairly to measure the real world of journalism rather than the upper end of it. Get more judges beyond the newspaper establishment, younger judges, and judges who represent the audience. I hope we will have some non-journalists on the sports award panel next year.

And, Neil Wallis, please click on to the internal mail at Canary Wharf and send a message congratulating Des Kelly and his *Mirror* sports team and inquire about what happened to the other Mirror Group titles.

TOM CLARKE

● *Tom Clarke was sports editor of the London* Evening Standard, *the* Daily Mail *and* The Times, *and Editor of* The Sporting Life.

An ad that costs £1 million should be making waves

ABBOTT MEAD VICKERS.BBDO



It took six weeks of painstaking work to meld the prancing Lipizzaner horses to the surfing footage shot in Hawaii



THE MOST beautiful and powerful piece of film on our screens is not one of Hollywood's technical epics, a BBC costume drama or even a wildlife series. It's a 60-second commercial for Guinness, and it cost more than £1 million to make.

The black-and-white ad features a surfer on a beach intently anticipating the ultimate wave. He explodes into action when he senses that it has come and rides the perfect curl. As the drama unfurls to the pulsating beat of Leftfield's *Phat Planet*, the crest becomes a sequence of stampeding white horses before the surfer coasts in to celebrate on the beach. "Good things come to those who . . . wait" is the endline, superimposed over a pint of Guinness. It's exhilarating stuff, but how does 60 seconds of film cost more than £1 million?

The commercial took more than a year to develop. The idea was derived from a poster presented by Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO in its pitch for the Guinness account. It featured a surfer looking expectantly out to sea. However, last year Guinness kicked off its "good things" campaign with a beautiful, if confusing, commercial called "swimblack", featuring an elderly Italian swimming a certain distance in the time it takes to pour a pint of Guinness.

The problem with the surfing idea was getting around watchdog guidelines that forbid associating alcoholic beverages with enhanced sporting performance. You'll notice that nobody drinks a pint of the black stuff in the ad.

So, after three months of Tom Carty and Walter Campbell — the team behind the dramatic Volvo ads of a couple of years back — tinkering with the script, the crew from AMV and the director, Jonathan Glazer ("swimblack", Nike Parklife, Levi's "Kung-Fu" and many others), went to Hawaii in January.

They had already trawled Los Angeles unsuccessfully for top surfers: they were all of the clichéd all-Californian variety. Eventually they cast a handful in Hawaii, with the lead taken by "Rusty", the world champion long-boarder. Over a week, Glazer rigged up cameras to helicopters and ski-jets and filmed all the waves he needed. Only a couple in the finished commercial were digitally enhanced. There followed three or four days of a waves-and-surfing edit in London. Then he filmed the horses, employing two of the beautiful white Lipizzaners famously used by the Vienna Riding School. The others are digitally created.

The horses were filmed on a giant blue-screen stage at Pinewood film studios. There was a water-bath for the floor. The trainer persuaded the horses to prance, leap and rise up on their haunches — all the actions matching the Hawaii footage frame by frame. This being advertising, even the fantastic physiques of the Lipizzaners were embellished by hand-drawn sinews and hair extensions.

The horse footage was melded to the Hawaiian footage during six weeks of painstaking work at London's Computer Film Company. It was only then that the soundtrack was agreed — the Velvet Underground had been the original choice. The ad was finished in mid-March and went out on March 16 during Manchester United's game with Internazionale.

Was it worth it? It is too early to say. Having ditched Ogilvy & Mather, its previous agency, because it wanted higher market share built on even more famous advertising, Guinness has seen its share rise from 4½ to 5 per cent, a real achievement in an overall declining beer market. It has also helped to throw off its comparatively sedate image born of years advertising the brand as a restorative pint. The problem is classic: attracting new, younger consumers without disenfranchising existing Guinness drinkers.

The director John Lloyd once told me that while he was at the BBC he had thought the money spent on directing commercials was "madness". When he started spending the *Blackadder* series budget (£250,000) on each Rowan Atkinson Barclaycard commercial, he thought the BBC mad.

Watch "surfer" and understand that there is method in Guinness's madness.

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 680 6800

EDUCATION

FAX: 0171 782 7899

EASTER REVISION

CIFE
EXCELLENCE IN INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
Specialists in University Entrance



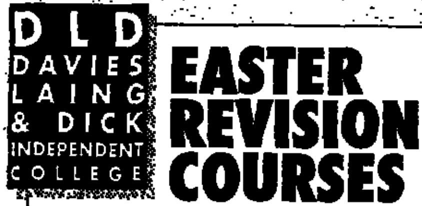
One and two year A-Level and GCSE courses

- Small group tuition
- Excellent results
- Wide range of subjects
- Interviewing now for September 1999 entry

Easter revision courses (23 March - 15th April)

Collingham Oxford, 31 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LF, Tel: 01865 728280
Collingham London, 23 Collingham Gardens, London SW5 0HL, Tel: 0171 244 7414
www.collingham.co.uk

EASTER REVISION AT HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD
GCSE & A-LEVELS
CHERWELL COLLEGE
01865 - 242670



DLD DAVIES LAING & DICK INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

EASTER REVISION COURSES

Small classes focus upon examination practice and technique under the guidance of experienced tutors.

0171 727 2797

We are also interviewing for Sixth Form Entry in September 1999

10 Pembridge Square London W2 4ED

CIFE colleges are committed to academic excellence and are inspected regularly. CIFE is your assurance of the highest standards of conduct and practice in independent education.

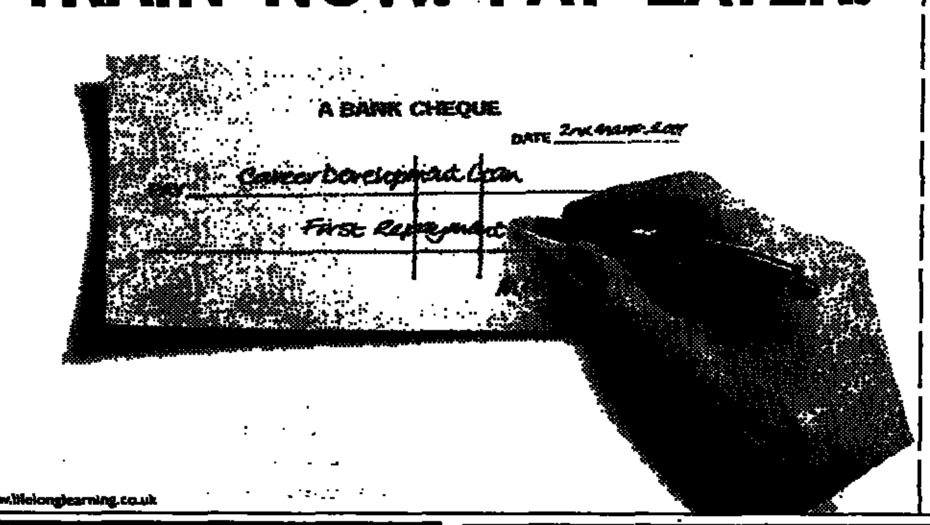
EASTER COURSES AT HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD
A-LEVEL & GCSE
Cherwell College's long established Easter Course. Intensive tuition in a demanding yet stimulating and friendly environment
Tel: 01865-242670 Fax: 01865-791761

EXAM TECHNIQUES
St Margarets Oxford
Easter Revision
- 'A' Level / GCSE all subjects
- Small group / individual tuition
- Accomm. at Oxford Colleges
- Also non-residential at Birmingham & Newcastle Univ.
- Examiners predict questions
- A, B or C guarantee scheme

Our 20th Easter Course!
Prospectus: Senior Tutor, Gorselands Hall, Northleigh, Oxford OX8 6PL
(01865) 880141 24 hrs

EDUCATION

TRAIN NOW. PAY LATER.



www.lifelonglearning.co.uk

With a Career Development Loan you can borrow from £300 to £8,000 and not pay anything back until you finish your education or training. Your course can last up to 3 years and can include work experience. The loans are Government Sponsored through selected High Street banks. For an information pack simply call **0800 58 55 05** or send the coupon to Career Development Loans, Freepost WA 15 21, Warrington WA4 1BR.

DfEE

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss)
Address
Postcode
Telephone TMS/16/C

Train now, pay later with a Career Development Loan.

Computeach and the Skills Crisis

Computeach International

Right now there's a massive demand for people like you given the right computer skills. More than 188,000 jobs were advertised last year in Information Technology.

Rewards are rocketing - the average salary for a programmer is £21,000 rising to well over £60,000 with experience!*

Computeach graduates are in high demand - our specialist Recruitment Agency receives a constant flow of vacancies from organisations nationwide desperately searching for staff. Many return time and time again for help, one company alone employs over 20 Computeach trained people!

You do not need: a fantastic IQ, computer know how, qualifications or to give up work. **You do need:** commitment and determination.

Since 1964, Computeach has trained thousands of first time entry programmers/analysts - we know what industry expects and we deliver.

If you think you have potential, request our Career Development Information Pack, call **0800 657 657**.

Leave others to think about it.

*Source: Computer Weekly Quarterly Survey of Appointment Data and Trends

TT902/04/008

E-Mail: info@computeach.co.uk
Website: http://www.computeach.co.uk

WANTEd KEEN READERS

(Spot our errors!)

Would you like to earn £9 to £12 an hour part or full-time working from home reading books for publishers and other organizations.

Many freelanse proofreaders and editors have been trained by Chapterhouse over the passed seven years. (Read some of their comments in our Prospectus).

People with no preveous experience, but a keen interest in, books, have established there own business with our help in technique and marketing.

Not everyone can be succesful, but with application this could be the career you have been looking for.

You need enthousiasm and a sharp eye. Your age and background is irrelevent. Send this advertisement marking all the mistakes you can find (or telephone us). We will send a FREE PROSPECTUS of our correspondence and seminar training courses without obligatoin

CHAPTERHOUSE, 2 Southernhay West, Exeter EX1 1JG. Telephone: 01392 499488 Fax: 01392 498008

GET PAID FOR READING BOOKS

It's true! You can up to £500 a week as a Freelance Proofreader and Copy Editor. No experience needed. Unique home-study course reveals all you need to know. For a FREE special report and details of how to claim your FREE trial lesson write to: Maple Publishing, (Dept PR1), FREEPOST HA4446, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3BR. Or call FREE:

0800-542-0181 (Quote Ref: PR1)

Head Of Marketing

Marketing Department

Salary: up to £45,000

Ref: SCAD1616(T)

Closing date: 16 April 1999

The University wishes to appoint a Head of Marketing to provide leadership to an innovative and committed team. The department is responsible for a wide range of marketing and public relations activities, including media relations, support for student recruitment, liaison with schools, internal communication, University publications and our growing alumni and development programme.

The successful candidate will lead the marketing strategy of the University, working closely with senior management and with staff throughout the University. We are looking for someone who is sympathetic to Higher Education, with excellent communication skills and experience in leading teams.

Please contact John Craven (Vice-Chancellor: 01705 843190) or Colin Monk (Pro-Vice-Chancellor: 01705 843193, email: colin.monk@port.ac.uk) for confidential discussion.



University of Portsmouth

Aiming for equal opportunities

COURSES

1919-1999 · 1919-1999 · 1919-1999 · 1919-1999 · 1919-1999 · 1919-1999 · 1919-1999 · 1919-1999

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED

CHIROPODY

AS A REDUNDANCY PROOF PROFESSION

The demand for chiropody is ever increasing. Most of the training for the private sector can be studied at home without leaving your job, with practical training in your holidays.

- **We have continuously trained for 80 years (1919).**
- Membership of the largest professional body - THE BRITISH CHIROPODY & PODIATRY ASSOCIATION.
- **Grants? You may be eligible for a grant.**

Write for a FREE prospectus to:
THE OPEN COLLEGE OF CHIROPODY & PODIATRY
149 Bath Road, Maidenhead, SL6 4LA.
Tel: (01628) 621100 (24hrs) Fax: 674483
Email No: 106033.3541@compuserve.com.
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/SMAE_INSTITUTE/

NAME:
ADDRESS: DEPT ST
POSTCODE:

Learn Spanish in Spain

- Study in Salamanca, Barcelona, Granada and Málaga
- 2 weeks to 9 months (all levels-all year)
- Host family or student flat accommodation available

✓ *Call today for a FREE information pack*
Tel 0181 786 8081
(Fax 0181 786 8086)
e-mail: dquk@dircon.co.uk
Web Site: www.donquijote.org

don Quijote

OXFORD SCIENCE STUDIES
A-LEVEL & GCSE EASTER COURSES at LADY MARGARET HALL, OXFORD
- OXFORD'S ONLY SCIENCE & MATHS SPECIALISTS
- 94% PASS RATE
- GUARANTEED A-C GRADE
- RUN BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY SCIENTISTS

FREEFONE 0800 389 6935 (24 HRS, 7 DAYS)

institut français

Breaking the Language Barriers

Learn French!

French courses: morning, afternoon, evening and week-end start 12 April.

GCSE and A Level revision courses start 22, 29 March and 6 April.

Institut français
14 Cromwell Place
South Kensington,
London SW7

For free brochures, please contact: 0171 581 2701

LANGUAGE COURSES

SPANISH IN SPAIN
★ SUMMER HOLIDAY COURSES
- all ages
- all levels

★ ALL YEAR ROUND
- adult intensive courses
- family immersion all ages, without classes

GALA Regional Office, Woodcote Hs, 8 Leigh Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8HP
Tel/Fax. 01252 715319

LANGUAGE COURSES

STUDY GERMAN IN AUSTRIA
UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSES FOR FOREIGNERS
3 sessions from July 4th to September 18th, 1999 (3 starting dates)
Courses for beginners and advanced students
Fees for courses for 4 weeks ATS 4,500,-- (appr. £230,-)
Inclusive charge for language courses and room for 4 weeks ATS 9,900,-- (appr. £505,-)
Detailed programme from:
Wiener Internationale Hochschulkurse
A-1010 WIEN, Universität
Tel.: (++431) 405 12 54-0
Fax: (++431) 405 12 54-10
E-mail: WIHOK@univie.ac.at
http://www.univie.ac.at/WIHOK

FACULTY OF DESIGN

ONE YEAR FULL-TIME
PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

Places available

Call for an interview

0181 547 7066

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY

GERMAN INTENSIVE COURSES
12-30 April + 10 May - 25 June
at the German Cultural Centre
GOETHE INSTITUT LONDON
50 Princes Gate (Exhibition Road) London SW7 2PH
Tel: 0171 596 4004
Fax: 0171 594 0210
e-mail: german@london.goethe.org

Distance learning offers experienced managers an effective study route to the MBA and Warwick's top-rated Business School has more than 10 years' experience in supporting MBA students through its flexible programme.

WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL

"I wanted to take an MBA by Distance Learning so I talked to Warwick. No one else came close."

If you would like to know more then call the number below quoting reference ST288.
Tel. +44 (0)1203 524100
Fax. +44 (0)1203 524411
E-mail: dlmbainf@wbs.warwick.ac.uk
http://www.wbs.warwick.ac.uk/mba
Warwick Business School, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, England.



Cambridge Centre for Sixth-form Studies

A Levels and GCSEs
Small Classes CIFE
Individual Attention
Day and Boarding Places
Now enrolling for September 1999

ISIS



For more information contact
Alison Lake, CCSS
1 Salisbury Villas
Station Road
Cambridge CB1 2JF
Tel: 01223 716890
Fax: 01223 517530
Email: Cambridge_Centre_Edu@msn.com or visit our website at www.ccss.co.uk

CCSS: celebrating its 18th year

Career skills for your GAP YEAR
- 3, 6 or 9 mth intensive courses
- Computer I.T. skills training
- DTP, Spreadsheets, Multimedia
- Marketing/Media/Languages
- Practical work placement
- Professional career guidance

Prospectus: (01865) 240963
St.Aldates College

"HOW WILL I MAKE THE GRADE..?"

CAREER ANALYSTS LTD
0171-935 5452 LONDON
0161-236 8996 MANCHESTER

Internet and **Network Training**

Networking Foundation
PC Software & Hardware Support - A+
Microsoft Windows NT4 - MCSE
Novell NetWare 4 & 5 - CNE
Internet Web Design

Technical Education Centre

Call for details of TECH's OPEN EVENINGS in Surrey, Manchester and Birmingham

For a FREE brochure call
0181 549 0549
TECH

To advertise on this page call the Education Team:
James Merrett 0171 680 6297
Patricia Wade 0171 680 6298
Charlie Read 0171 680 6296

BUSINESS COURSES

The Management Centre

The Leicester MBA

For the Board, not the bored!

- A premier international management qualification
- Increase earning potential
- Distance learning or campus based

CALL US TODAY
Brochure Freephone (24 hour) 0800 374024 (UK)
Talk To A Consultant +44 (0) 1203 422422
Email: info@rdi.co.uk
Website: www.rdi.co.uk

rdi
Freepost (T99) CV2472 Coventry CV4 8BR

It's your move!

Leicester University

University of Hertfordshire

MSc Manufacturing Management by Distance Learning

Want to enhance your current qualifications at your own pace and convenience?

Then why not take this unique distance learning Masters course and experience the benefits of one of the UK's leading faculties (recently rated 'Excellent' - HEFCE, Quality Assessment).

Major subject areas include:

Business & Manufacturing Strategy, Human Resource Management, Information Systems, Financial Control, Quality & Quality Systems, Operations Management (MRP/MRP II, OPT, JIT), Systems Modelling & Simulation, Statistics, Organisational Economics, Business of Manufacture, Major Project

Next intake: May 1999
Course duration: 2 years.

For further details contact:
University Admissions Office
Tel: 01707 284800 (ref. 367 Times)
Fax: 01707 284256
Email: k.t.dawkins@herts.ac.uk

Ashford SCHOOL

Bursar

Ashford School is an Independent School. The School comprises 500 girls, ranging in age from 3 to 18 years. We wish to appoint a Bursar and Clerk to the Board of Governors to take up the post of the present holder when he retires in December 1999.

The successful candidate must be a talented administrator with energy and drive and a proven ability in financial and general management. Experience in building works and maintenance, human resources and information technology is necessary while an interest or experience in education and estate management is desirable.

Further details for this key post may be obtained from:
The Clerk to the Governors
Ashford School,
East Hill,
Ashford,
Kent TN24 8PB.

The closing date is 6th April 1999.

St. George's University is pleased to announce its School of Veterinary Medicine.

—— Commencing August 1999 ——

Coursework includes the study of large and small animals and is taught by an international faculty. Clinical work is completed in affiliated veterinarian programmes in the United States and in the United Kingdom.

Applications are now being accepted.

For enrolment information, please contact:
St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine
Dept. AVLT c/o The North American Correspondent: MSSL
One East Main Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706-8339
Phone: 1-516-665-8500 Fax: 1-516-665-5590
Email: sgu_info@sgu.edu Internet: http://www.sgu.edu



St. George's University
Grenada and St. Vincent, West Indies

High-tech revision proves a useful tool



This weekend the shops will be full of panic-stricken parents and teenagers looking for a magic wand to stave off potential disaster in the face of imminent GCSE and A-level exams. Fortunately for them, the range of revision aids is growing by the year.

Teachers at the Association of Teachers and Lecturers' annual conference this week were scathing about "infantilely challenged parents" who cram their children from nursery school onwards. But by the time public examinations come around, even the most restrained wonder whether the unfortunate candidate could be doing more. Every expert will tell you that Easter is too late to start revising, but it is never too late to give a fillip to a process that is perhaps becoming stale. The trick is to find something that will reinforce the work you have done, not simply to provide a diversion.

Increasingly, this will come in the form of a CD-Rom or Internet service, rather than books. More ground can be covered in a limited period, and a new approach may be just what is needed to master aspects of a subject that refused to sink in at school or college.

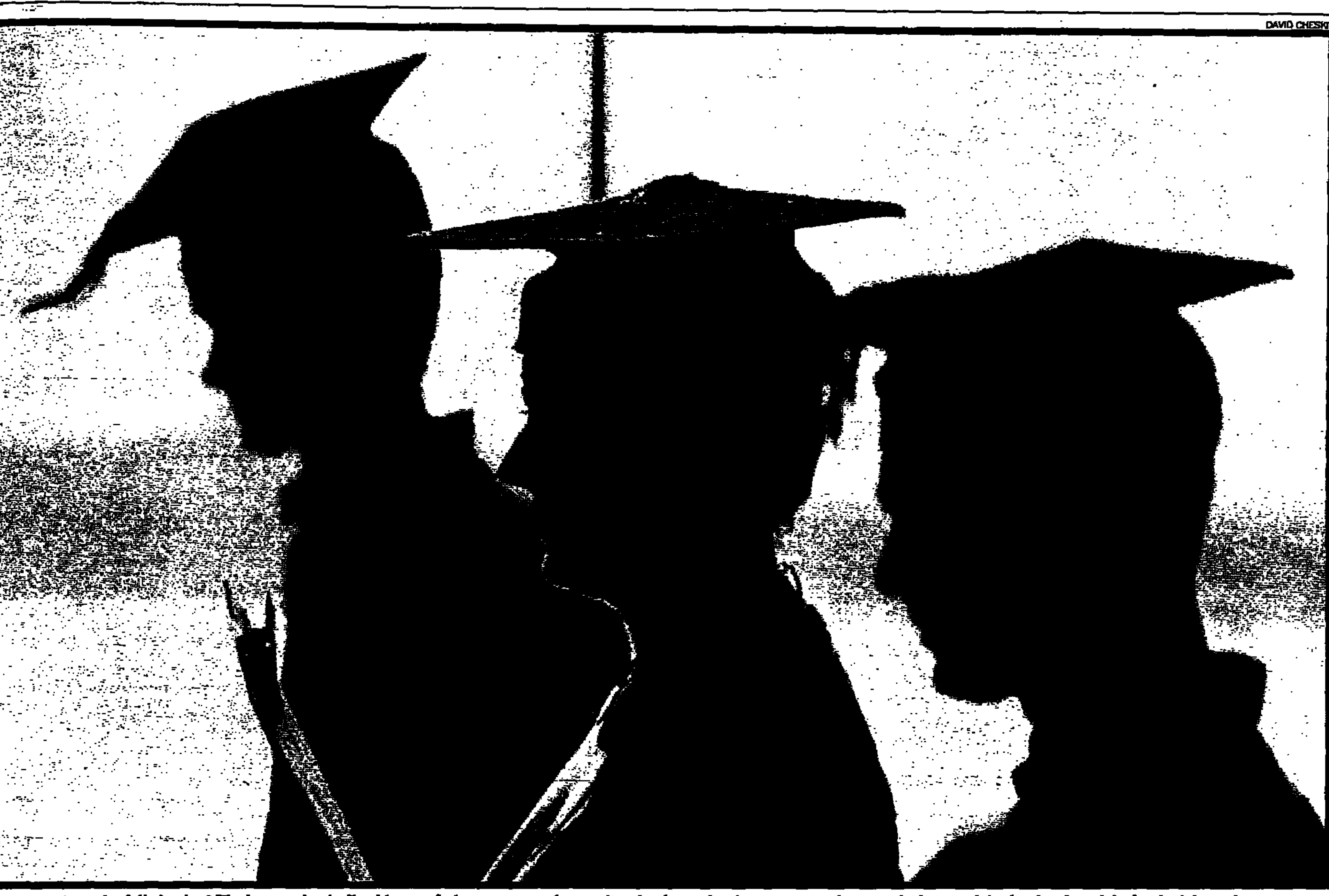
But how does a parent or student know where to start when faced with the burgeoning educational software market? The growth in the number of homes with computers has been outpacing virtually all other countries, but research for *Encyclopaedia Britannica* shows that most are used only for games, putting Britain behind much of Europe in educational usage. Surveys carried out by the Parents Information Network (PIN), which advises families on computer technology, leave little doubt that most computer owners would like to make more constructive use of them, but lack the knowledge to do so. Despite the wealth of magazines proffering advice, many parents lack the confidence to pick and choose between the grandiose claims of competing producers.

The PIN's recent surveys suggest that parents are right to be cautious, because genuinely useful programs are thin on the ground. At all levels of the education process it found room for improvement and gave especially low marks for revision CD-Roms designed to help children taking national curriculum tests. PIN's complaints about the standard of CD-Roms were not just that they failed to offer the support necessary to enable users to improve, but that they were often inconsistent and inaccurate. Reading aids, too, were unsatisfactory and even the reference packages available for secondary school pupils were deemed "little more than digitised books".

At GCSE level, however, there are worthwhile packages on sale. Perhaps the size of the market and format of the examinations lend themselves to multimedia presentations, but there are CD-Roms and Internet services that meet students' needs in a way still inconceivable for other age groups. The BBC's *Bitesize* publications are probably the best example. A newly expanded range now covers 13 subjects, from design and technology to religious education, offering revision topics and related questions, as well as various themes likely to be covered in future exams. Books, CD-Roms and websites are integrated with overnight television programmes designed for video.

BT's Home Campus shows that computer technology can be both popular and successful as a self-standing study aid. The shelves of computer stores are groaning with other examples. The age of the book is by no means over, but high technology is beginning to win the battle for the home revision market.

DAVID CHESKIN



A mark of distinction? The less academically able may feel pressure to take a university degree but in some cases they may be better advised to head straight for the job market

A degree of career failure

For students with weak A-level results, it has never been easier to get into university. But can this harm their job prospects? **Nick Moore** reports on the reluctant graduates

What is the worst career decision you have ever made? Philip Roberts believes that his mistake was going to university. "I'm £9,000 in debt and I've ended up in a job that I could have gone to straight from school," he says. "People should think twice before they do a degree course."

Mr Roberts, 24, who left Humberside University last year with a 2.2 in tourism, is one of a growing number of graduates emerging from Britain's new universities, most of which were formerly polytechnics. Inevitably these institutions attract a number of less academic students who have failed to achieve the grades demanded by more established universities. But despite poor A levels, many students take up places at university because they think they should.

The outcome, as Mr Roberts and many of his peers are discovering, is that a degree from a low-status university is far from being a passport to a good career. Graduates emerge with enormous debts and find themselves competing with better-qualified contemporaries for limited graduate positions.

The problem stems from the pressure that pushes even weak A-level pupils to go to university. Mr Roberts acknowledges this. "I didn't really want to go to college," he says. "I got poor A levels and wanted a job. But the done thing now is to go to university." He found a place through clearing. But when he graduated, he found that employers were not interested in his degree. Eventually, he took a junior position in a Cardiff bank, at £7,500 a year. "If I had started when I was 18, which I could have, I would be earning twice that amount," he says. "And I would have no loans to pay off."

The situation is likely to worsen. Labour has eagerly adopted its Conservative predecessors' aim of getting a third of school-leavers into higher education. More than 300,000 students will start courses this autumn, often paying their own tuition fees and with lower than ever grant allowances.

By the time the present intake leaves college, thousands of graduates with poor A levels, second-rate degrees and debts of up to £20,000 will be competing for employment. This could develop into a significant social problem if a large portion of a generation becomes embittered at an education system and Government that failed to direct them properly.

The growth of unusual and highly specific courses is compounding the problem and misleading many students. Subjects such as Boxing or Australian studies (complete with analysis of *Neighbours*) may sound fun but employers are wary of such courses. Degrees in media studies or marketing do not automatically lead to careers at the BBC or Saatchi & Saatchi; graduates in such disciplines often find it hard to find work in these fiercely competitive areas.

David Newbold, 24, who left Humberside University with a 2.2 in European marketing last year, and now lives in Ormskirk, Lancashire, confirms this. "I have found it impossible to get into marketing," he says. "Nobody from my course has got beyond sales positions. It's depressing, but these jobs are so in demand." Mr Newbold is unemployed.

Matthew Simpson, 23, who has a 2.2 in management studies from Manchester Metropolitan University and two mediocre A levels, also regrets attending college. "I had to get work to fund myself, alongside £5,000 worth of loans," he recalls. "I feel it was an effort made in vain. Because my degree is not so good, I cannot find graduate work, yet I am over-qualified for other jobs." He now works in a packing factory in Wrexham.

Yet the idea that anyone who can get into university should go, remains sacrosanct. Schools herd their pupils to university because it reflects well on their statistics; head teachers boast about their success rates. Parents are understandably flushed with pride that their offspring are bound for a noble seat of learning.

Universities, meanwhile, need to fill places to secure funding. They also produce statistics which suggest that most graduates get jobs. Humberside says that 91 per cent of graduates do so, or go on to further education, and Manchester Metropolitan gives a figure of 85 per cent, although neither institution has a breakdown of the jobs their graduates take up.

The losers? Non-academic sixth-formers. Even if they are not interested in study and have poor results, they are seen as failures if they do not go to university, and are given little guidance if they opt out at this point. As for those who decide to attend university, record numbers are dropping out — for the same reasons that they shouldn't have gone.

Mr Roberts says: "If you aren't expecting good A levels, there is a strong argument for not applying. Unless you really know what you want to do and are determined to work hard, I would be tempted to try another option."

Mr Simpson agrees. "If I could have my time again, I would have done work experience after A levels in an area that interests me. Sixth-formers should be wary of going to university for the sake of it. It can be a costly mistake."

● E-mail: edpage@the-times.co.uk

How rigid courses stop learning

Pupils must stray from the syllabus, says **Susan Elkin**

Consider the national curriculum. Then consider what you would expect a 17-year-old to know of this century's history: the dates of the two world wars, for instance. Does the national curriculum ensure that the average teenager has the answers? I don't believe it does.

I was recently horrified by the 17-year-old who was astonished to learn a fact that most people would consider general knowledge. "Do you mean there were two world wars this century?" she asked.

Our present system, so laudable in intention, is profoundly anti-educational. The utilitarian checklist we call the national curriculum details precisely what every five to 16-year-old must learn. The danger is that once teachers and pupils tick off the specifications on the list, they often stop. That means that not one teenager in a hundred will be able to show you on a map where Cambridge or Southampton is because neither city is listed.

Standards of general knowledge — that which is useful and interesting but is nowhere enshrined in a syllabus — get ever worse. How



am I to teach the poetry and philosophy of Wordsworth to an A-level group, not one of whom can tell me the date of, or anything about, the French Revolution? Much of this ignorance and inability to reason stems from a lethal mixture of over-exposure to the lowest grade of television and a lack of wider reading. The prevailing view is that if something is not in the syllabus, reading it is a waste of time.

How many young people would visit an art gallery or museum voluntarily? One of my former pupils, now a law student, wrote recently with her news, which included the information that she'd visited a "great" sex museum in Amsterdam — so much more interesting than all the British museums to which she had been dragged in the past, she said.

Most youngsters are attuned to the notion that learning can be kept to a minimum. What happened to a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning for itself? Of course, we all want pupils to pass their exams, but they are not the totality of education. Real education is infinite. It is not hacked down to fit some blinkered syllabus compiler's cardboard file. A curriculum should be a beginning, not an end. We lose sight of that at our peril.

● *The author is a teacher of secondary English.*

When lessons interrupt an important call

Forget yo-yos, mobile phones are now a serious problem for teachers. **John Elderkin** on the latest trend for distraction



Nokia and Ericsson are the names to have

By the end of her teaching practice at a West London secondary, Debbie Colgen thought that she had seen it all — then a mobile phone rang at the back of her class. "If that wasn't bad enough," she recalls, "a student answered the phone by saying 'James Enterprises, how may I help you?' I didn't know whether to laugh, cry or shout."

Mrs Colgen is not the only teacher who has to cope with the explosive increase in mobile-phone activity among London secondary students. Usage is estimated at 30 per cent and teachers have reported phones ringing in examination halls, pupils calling from one classroom to another during lessons and even legal disputes over students using mobiles.

Mobile phones are unlike previous fads because they undermine tradition and authority. There is no way to monitor the wide social circle within which a student might phone at school. Students sense this, hence the attraction of the mobile. Justine, 15, who goes to school in Central London, says: "When I have my phone, I can do what I want."

With phone prices in free fall and special payment plans designed to entice teenagers, the mobile's presence in schools seems certain to increase. At one London comprehensive 40 per cent of a class of 11-year-olds admitted having bleepers or mobile phones. Chatting to friends is why they want them, but when asked why they should have them, all cited parental concern for their safety. But questioned more thoroughly, several older students admitted they had conned their parents. One student said: "I told them I would be safer, but really I just wanted one because everyone else has them." He went on to boast about his phone's special features – such as a Union Jack cover (cost £30).

Mobiles represent the high point of technology as fashion. Nokia and Ericsson are the names to have and students compete to own the most compact or colourful version. Multi-coloured antennae that flash with incoming calls and unusual "rings" (from a Spice Girls tune to *The Godfather* theme) are *de rigueur*. One student even confesses that she leaves her older phone at home because she is embarrassed by it. "It's a big, clunky one," she explains. "I use my friend's instead."

Aylward School in North London, where Mrs Colgen teaches, has reacted swiftly to the influx. Parents have been notified that mobile phones will be confiscated and kept in the school safe if they are discovered. Karen Reilly, a teacher, says: "We don't have much trouble with phones in the classrooms, although we realise that some are being carried around discreetly."

But teachers at other schools report continuing difficulties in controlling personal phones. Confiscation often leads to further disruptions. David Powell, a teacher in Haringey, accepts that emotions can run high. "Some of these phones are expensive," he adds. "It's not like taking away a baseball cap."

And because parents own the phones and have been sold on the mobile's safety attributes, they often endorse their child's decision to carry it. Some even insist on it. The most common strategy appears to be one of containment.

Iain Haresign, who teaches at Crofton Park School in Lewisham, believes that common sense must be used. "You cannot," he says, "check every bag in every lesson." Teenagers with pay-as-you-go plans often find themselves in serious debt. Some borrow money, others take afternoon jobs just to pay for their phone habit. And owners of particularly flashy mobiles are subject to threats and robbery — which makes nonsense of the protection supposedly offered by a mobile phone.

Chris McGrath sees Richard Hills flourish in Dubai

A reputation built on sand

England has rolled out the green carpet for Richard Hills, who flies home today after his annual migration to the desert. But the verdant spring that greets him can offer no blossom, no promise of new life, more invigorating than the unforgettable flowering he enjoyed in the arid sands of Dubai last Sunday.

His achievement in winning the Dubai World Cup on Almutawakel will be easily measured when he receives his cut of the sport's richest ever prize. Yet he would begin his season at Kempton Park tomorrow with no less exuberance had his reward been restricted to the astonishing instant carnival that greeted him at Nad al Sheba.

It was a moment of radiant fulfilment. On dismounting, in a touching conclusion to his rites of passage, he warmly embraced Tom Jones, the retired trainer who was his mentor for 17 of his 36 years.

From this peak of his career so far, Hills can acknowledge the problems he endured after succeeding Willie Carson as retained jockey to Sheikh Hamdan al-Maktoum. His relative anonymity, with both the public and inveterate sceptics in the press, extended even to a detailed resemblance to his twin and fellow jockey, Michael.

In fairness, Almutawakel was only sealing the breakthroughs of last season, when Hills grew in self-belief and rode several big winners. Even so, their success represented an awakening every bit as stunning as the glistening towers surging from the desert horizon beyond.

Hills was on such a high that he could not sleep for two nights afterwards, and joy still consumed him when he interrupted his packing to reflect on what had happened. "You know, they were pretty big shoes I stepped into," he said. "But Sheikh Hamdan showed faith in me and to pay him back like this is a dream. I felt everything had started coming together from last July.

"You take a while to get your confidence. Everyone makes mistakes. You need the horses to bring you out. But I was delighted with the way things went then, and winning the Dewhurst on Mujahid really crowned it."

If Hills found his feet in that second season because he was riding better horses, equally the confidence such horses give a jockey was reflected in his own performance. "It's a mental thing, really," Hills said. "The same as any sport. You read how Alan Shearer can't score a goal and the next minute he won't be able to stop.

"I could name 20 jockeys equally capable of winning on a given horse. But you need luck to get on the horse. You do put yourself under pressure. Things go wrong sometimes. Racing isn't all pre-planned. Mind you, riding these horses is a lot easier than riding in a Nottingham seller."

Be that as it may, Hills certainly gave Almutawakel a fine ride, seizing a decisive advantage in the straight and preserving it against the American rivals who harried him to the line. "It was one of those rare occasions when everything worked out as planned," he said.

"Being drawn six was a help. You've three furlongs before a turn and, when a horse has never had a race on dirt before, that helps build their confidence. They can become disoriented with dirt kicked in their faces. I never had to use him up going round horses or into gaps. I was a bit worried about Central Park because I knew he'd kick, so I was pleased to stay within a length.

"But that last half-furlong. I thought it would never end. I could feel them coming down on me, all I could do was try to keep him balanced and hope. He's so courageous. First I just felt relief that we held on, but then the thrill kicked in. To win this race for Sheikh Hamdan — and the reception was unbelievable. It's my seventh season here and they follow racing very closely. It's different back at home, because often people are cheering because they've won money. Here it's just their love of horses."

Now he hopes to sustain the momentum on home soil, notably with Mujahid in the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas. "He's a lovely horse with a turn of foot. I'm very confident he'll stay the mile and I know Mr Dunlop is very pleased with him."

Hills would be entitled to brash ambitions for the coming months — to claim centre stage in big races and show he belongs there. That he offers no such bluster is perhaps the most positive augur for his prospects of doing so. "I tell you what I'm going to do this year," he said quietly. "I'm going to keep my head down, keep pedalling. Keep enjoying it. Because every day, when I pick up the paper and see the horses I have to ride — well, it's a joy. Such a joy."

Hills drives the game Almutawakel to victory over Malek. Photograph: B K Bangash



Hills acknowledges the enthusiastic crowd at Nad al Sheba after the Dubai World Cup

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Leicester

Going: good to soft, soft in places

2.10 (1m 8yd) 1, **TIME N TIDE** (W J O'Connor, 40-1); 2, **Tarawan** (K Fallon, 8-11 fav); 3, **Lamerie** (Dane O'Neill, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 Loop The Loup (5th), 14 My Pleasure, 16 Salsify, 25 Jet Age (4th), 33 Alpine Red, Hound Venture, 50 Bid Me Welcome (6th), 100 Stormin. 11 ran. ¾l, 1¾l, 3l, nk, ½l. B Meehan at Lambourn. Tote: £48.20; £8.30, £1.20, £1.80. DF: £38.90. CSF: £62.54.

2.40 (7f 9yd) 1, **ADIRPOUR** (P M Quinn, 50-1); 2, **Bettron** (R Hughes, 3-1 fav); 3, **Holloway Melody** (D Kilcourse, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 Ambitious (5th), 5 Birchwood Sun, 10 Roffey Spinney, 12 Foxie Lady, 14 Ipcress Filly, 25 Comeoutofthefog (6th), Sandy Shore, 33 Awesome Venture, Goldliner Gossip, Johnny Staccato (4th), Mustn't Grumble, Overcome, 40 Cheerful Groom, 50 My Kind, 66 Docklands Merc. 18 ran. NR: Magic Powers, Scathebury. 2½l, nk, 2½l, 6l, hd. R Hollinshead at Upper Longdon. Tote: £33.20; £4.80, £2.70, £5.70. DF: £57.80. CSF: £159.01.

3.10 (1m 3f 183yd) 1, **THROWER** (C Cogan, 8-1); 2, **Ardleigh Charmer** (R French, 4-1 fav); 3, **Kintbury** (Martin Dwyer, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 River Captain (6th), 6 Count de Money, 9 Flying Flip (5th), 12 Children's Choice, Kinlavi, 14 Cadmex, Moonraking, Rear Window (4th), 16 Shambles, State Approval, 33 Minjara. 14 ran. NR: Petunise. 1¾l, 2½l, 9l, 6l, 1½l. S Brookshaw at Uffington. Tote: £9.60; £4.60, £2.30, £7.60. DF: £26.90. CSF: £38.05. Tricast: £728.44.

3.40 (1m 1f 218yd) 1, **TOP JEM** (P McCabe, 13-2); 2, **Fantasy Night** (Pat Eddery, 100-30 fav); 3, **Zaha** (A Polli, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 6-1 Haydn James, 7 Swinging The Blues, 8 Respond, 9 Poker School (5th), 10 Sualtach, 14 Be My Wish, 20 Needwood Mystic (6th), Regal Bridget (4th). 11 ran. 2l, 1¼l, 6l, 2½l, 3½l. M Ryan at Newmarket. Tote: £8.80; £3.70, £1.40, £3.40. DF: £16.60. CSF: £25.33. Tricast: £298.59.

4.10 (7f 9yd) 1, **CAPTAIN MILLER** (A Mackay, 11-1); 2, **Retaliator** (M Fenton, 8-1); 3, **Fizzygig** (M Henry, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Zulu (USA) (4th), 4 Rex Is Okay, 9-2 Bound For Pleasure, 6 Tous Les Jours (5th), 16 Jade Tiger, 40 April Ace (6th). 9 ran. NR: Pal Of Mine. 2l, 4l, 2l. M Channon at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £15.60; £3.40, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £57.90. Trifecta: £1,066.90. CSF: £87.65. Tricast: £534.03.

4.40 (7f 9yd) 1, **ARCTIC CHAR** (W J O'Connor, 16-1); 2, **Ponyboat** (M Fenton, 9-4 jt-fav); 3, **Karowna** (J Reid, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 jt-fav Lowndes Court (4th), 9-2 Why Worry Now (IRE) (5th), 5 Tamgeed (6th), 8 Lyrist, 25 Elenii, 50 Silver Gyre. 9 ran. Nk, 3l, 1. B Meehan at Lambourn. Tote: £14.10; £2.70, £1.10, £3.90. DF: £57.10. CSF: £50.07.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £14,709.09 carried forward to tomorrow).

Placepot: £416.70. Quadpot: £69.90.

Musselburgh

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.20 (1m 1f) 1, **Equerry** (F Lynch, 20-1); 2, Anonym (5-1); 3, Dr Woodstock (12-1). 4, Genuine John (8-1). 16 ran. 1½l, 3l. M Dods. Tote: £37.20; £4.70, £1.30, £4.80, £2.10. DF: £113.30. CSF: £117.87. Tricast: £1,215.44.

2.50 (5f) 1, **Blackpool Mamma's** (P Fessey, 8-1); 2, Lord Bankes (evens fav); 3, Desert Safari (4-1). 9 ran. NR: Kirsch. Hd, 3½l. J Berry. Tote: £6.30; £1.80, £1.10, £1.60. DF: £4.90. CSF: £18.97.

3.20 (2m) 1, **Batoutoftheblue** (L Charnock, 10-1); 2, Kierans Bridge (13-2); 3, Linea-G (3-1 jt-fav). 8 ran. 1½l, 1¾l. W Haigh. Tote: £9.70; £2.20, £2.80, £1.50. DF: £128.90. CSF: £65.79. Tricast: £221.83.

3.50 (5f) 1, **Swynford Dream** (P Robinson, 10-1); 2, Palacegate Jack (10-1); 3, Lord High Admiral (3-1 fav). 12 ran. Hd, 4l. T Etherington. Tote: £12.00; £3.30, £1.80, £1.40. DF: £38.10. CSF: £90.97. Tricast: £345.82.

4.20 (1m 4f) 1, **High Tems** (G Duffield, 3-1); 2, Suave Frankie (11-4 fav); 3, Sharp Ending (10-1). 6 ran. 8l, 2l. S Woods. Tote: £4.80; £1.90, £1.90. DF: £3.90. CSF: 9.33.

4.50 (1m) 1, **Fallachan** (P Robinson, 11-4 fav); 2, Col-Woody (10-1); 3, Diletto (6-1). 14 ran. 2l, hd. M Jarvis. Tote: £2.90; £1.10, £5.40, £3.00. DF: £21.10. CSF: £29.98. Tricast: £149.23.

Placepot: £128.00. Quadpot: £61.00.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.00 (1m 2f) 1, **Sassedo** (G Bardwell, 25-1); 2, Jubilee Scholar (9-4 fav); 3, Wadi (11-4). 10 ran. 1¼l, nk. J Bridger. Tote: £21.70; £3.50, £1.10, £1.40. DF: £28.60. CSF: £88.93.

2.30 (1m 2f) 1, **Gracious Plenty** (K Sked, 1-14 fav); 2, Rookie (16-1); 3, Survival Venture (20-1). 4 ran. NR: Barrettstown, Satna. 16l, 4l. B Hills. Tote: £1.10. DF: £2.50. CSF: £2.28.

3.00 (7f) 1, **Rendita** (P Doe, 10-1); 2, Compton Akka (7-2); 3, Done And Dusted (4-1). Dream On Me (5th) 9-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Nicholas Mistress. 5l, 2½l. D Haydn Jones. Tote: £9.50; £1.80, £1.70, £1.30. DF: £21.00. CSF: £39.24. Tricast: £153.99.

3.30 (1m 4f) 1, **Tallulah Belle** (T G McLaughlin, 6-5 fav); 2, Banbury (13-8); 3, Opera Buff (8-1). 4 ran. 3l, 10l. N Littmoden. Tote: £1.80. DF: £1.50. CSF: £3.27.

4.00 (5f) 1, **Batchworth Belle** (S Carson, 7-2); 2, Antonia's Double (9-1); 3, Aljaz (8-1). Tear White 2-1 fav. 8 ran. ½, ½. E Wheeler. Tote: £4.30; £2.00, £3.90, £2.90. DF: £37.90. CSF: £32.73. Tricast: £218.70.

4.30 (1m) 1, **Stoppes Brow** (R Brisland, 6-1); 2, Kanawa (13-2); 3, Slip Jig (10-1). Garnock Valley 5-1 fav. 12 ran. 4l, nk. G L Moore. Tote: £7.00; £2.20, £2.50, £3.70. DF: £47.60. CSF: £44.47. Tricast: £370.71.

Placepot: £66.90. Quadpot: 50.00.

Coral offers long-term investment

By Chris McGrath

AFTER being prised free of a Ladbrokes takeover, Coral vowed to celebrate its renewed independence by showing a spirit of innovation in ante-post betting. Yesterday it proved as good as its word. At this stage of the Flat season, ante-post betting is traditionally confined to the first classics, but Coral has opened books on three of the summer's all-aged championships: the Darley July Cup, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, and the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot.

There will no doubt be interest in 10-1 against Stravinsky for the July Cup after the Irish colt again faltered off the bridle at the Curragh last weekend. Lujain, another Sagitta 2,000 Guineas candidate with unproven stamina, shares 8-1 favouritism with Diktat. Stravinsky's stablemate, Bianconi, is also quoted 10-1; Coral then offers 12-1 about Arkadian Hero and Lochangel, and 14-1 Sainte Marine.

Kayf Tara is 5-1 favourite to retain the Gold Cup. Spirit Of Love, runaway winner of the Cesarewitch, heads the young pretenders on 8-1, followed by the favourite's stablemate, Sea Wave, on 10-1. Other prices include 12-1 against Invermark, and 14-1 Persian Punch, Mawared and Maridpour.

Much the most nebulous territory must be the King George, as Vodafone Derby fancies first have to rise above their own generation. The betting is duly dominated by the seniors, with Royal Anthem favourite at 6-1, followed on 8-1 by two Godolphin horses in Daylami and High-Rise. Another, Almutawakel, would appear most unlikely to step up in trip but is quoted 10-1 along with Sagamix.

While these temptations foster interest in the new Flat season, National Hunt is not yet ready to forfeit its right to the headlines. Richard Dunwoody, on the cusp of Peter Scudamore's all-time record for career wins, heads to Newton Abbot tomorrow in his quest for the three he still requires. He will doubtless add to the gate at Wincanton on Monday, too, if remaining on the brink.

Jumping highlight of the Easter holiday programme is the Jameson Irish National at Fairyhouse. Len Lungo, trainer of Celtic Giant, has been persuaded that the ground will not be too soft for his Cheltenham winner, who was restored to 7-1 favouritism by William Hill.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

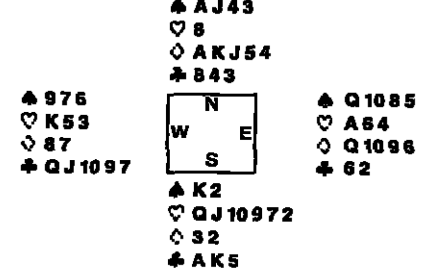
Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 50 – Putting it into Practice

Enough of bidding theory. Next week I will start a series of lessons that ignore bidding (more or less) and focus on cardplay and defence. Today I present you with a full hand:
You pick up as South (with opponents silent throughout):

♠K2 ♡QJ10972 ◇32 ♣AK5

You open One Heart, your partner, North, bids Two Diamonds and you rebid Two Hearts, limiting your hand to a maximum of 14 HCP. He now bids Two Spades. What do you call?

Your partner has shown five diamonds and four spades and at least invitational values. You have already described your hand as minimum and, within that limitation, it is quite strong. You have 13 HCP, good controls in the black suits and a nice solid heart suit. If your partner issues an invitation you should accept. Since you have already shown a six-card heart suit, it is time to show your good club stoppers so you rebid Three No-Trumps and everybody passes. West leads the queen of clubs.



Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: queen of clubs.

You have plenty of tricks; your problem on this hand is that your opponents may set up three club winners before you have established your hearts. You could play on diamonds but your prospects are not nearly as good in that suit as in hearts. Your only real problem is when the opposing clubs are divided 5-2. Say you win the club and play a heart: the opponent with the club shortage (East, say) will win and clear the suit while his partner still has another entry.

The solution is to *duck the first club*, win the second and play a heart. If East wins and has a club to play the suit is 4-3; if he has no club to play he can't clear the suit. Set the hand and play it through for yourself.

Of course if West has both heart honours you will go down. Then you will have to explain to partner why you are not in Four Hearts. Bridge is not a perfect game – even the experts sometimes bid to the wrong contract, but they still try to make it.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PLUTON
a. A mattress
b. Radioactive gas
c. Rock mass

LOOSE SILKY BENT
a. A young woman
b. A tie knot
c. Grass

SHAKEHOLE
a. A depression
b. Golfers' fear
c. A dice box

TAMBOUR
a. A shutter
b. Cymbals
c. A town crier

Answers on page 50



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Monaco result

The Melody Amber tournament in Monaco, in which the games are alternately played blindfold or rapid speed rates, has resulted in victory for Vladimir Kramnik, the talented Russian grandmaster. The top placings were as follows (out of 22 possible):
1, Vladimir Kramnik 14½pts; 2 equal, Veselin Topalov, Alexei Shirov 14; 4 equal, Viswanathan Anand, Joel Lautier 11½; 6, Anatoly Karpov 11.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Monte Carlo Blindfold 1999

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	f3	e5
7	Nb3	Be7
8	Be3	0-0
9	Qd2	a5
10	Bb5	Na7
11	Be2	Nc6
12	Bb5	Na7
13	Ba4	Be6
14	Bxa7	Rxa7
15	Qf2	Ra8
16	0-0-0	Qb8
17	Bb5	Rc8
18	Na4	d5
19	Nb6	a4
20	Bxa4	Qa7
21	exd5	Bd8
22	dxe6	Bxb6
23	exf7+	Kxf7
24	Nc5	Qxa4

White resigns

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Veselin Topalov
Monte Carlo Blindfold 1999

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	d5
4	Nc3	Be7
5	Bf4	0-0
6	e3	c5
7	dxc5	Bxc5
8	a3	Nc6
9	b4	Nxb4
10	axb4	Bxb4
11	Qb3	a5
12	Be5	Nd7
13	Rc1	f6
14	Bg3	Nc5
15	Qc2	Ne4
16	Qb2	e5
17	Ke2	Nxc3+
18	Rxc3	Bg4
19	h3	Bh5
20	Rd3	Qc8
21	Qa2	dxc4
22	e4	Bf7
23	Re3	c3
24	Qc2	a4
25	Nxe5	fxe5
26	Bxe5	Bc4+
27	Ke1	Bb3
28	Rg3	g6
29	Qc1	c2+
30	Ke2	Qc4+

White resigns

Diagram of first game

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

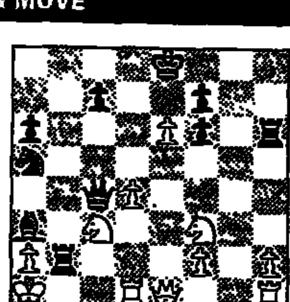
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Olbrich — Oberst, Germany 1999.

Both players have gone all out for an attack against the opposing king. However, Black now got in first. Can you see how?



Solution on page 50

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 72 Detroit 87; Washington 84 Orlando 73; Charlotte 94 Milwaukee 102; Phoenix 93 Golden State 78; Portland 100 Sacramento 86.

Wednesday's late result

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Thames Valley Tigers 96 Leicester Riders 80.

BOWLS

BLACKPOOL: Greenalls Spring Waterloo: Second round: M Ryding (Wigan) bt C Illingworth (Kelbrook) 21-20; S Bennett (Nuneaton) bt D Hope (Whitchurch) 21-16; R Manley (Whitchurch) bt M Lynch (Bootle) 21-20; M Bennett (Leigh) bt L Markham (Whitchurch) 21-18; D Lawton (Thornton) bt C Weaver (Whitchurch) 21-12; J Bottom (Barnsley) bt E Ferguson (Blackpool) 21-16.

CRICKET

International match

Lahore Gymkhana v England

LAHORE (England won toss): England beat Lahore Gymkhana by 137 runs

ENGLAND

N V Knight c Adeel b Khurshid	15
A J Stewart retired	67
G A Hick retired	81
G P Thorpe b Asim	11
N H Fairbrother retired	58
A J Hollioake retired	65
M A Ealham c Aamer b Badar	38
R D B Croft c and b Asim	5
I D Austin lbw b Rehman	3
D Gough not out	15
Extras (b 11, lb 5, nb 3)	19
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs)	375

A D Mullally did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-179, 3-335, 4-340, 5-371.

BOWLING: Ala-ur-Rehman 9-0-67-1; Khurshid Bhinder 9-0-68-1, Imran Bucher 4-0-37-0; Asim Sheikh 10-0-57-2; Flintoff 5-0-19-0; Zaben Qadri 6-0-37-0, Amin Khan 4-0-39-0; Sohail Hussain 1-0-12-0; Badar Zaman 2-0-23-0

LAHORE GYMKHANA

Badar Zaman b Gough	6
V J Wells c and b Austin	30
Adeel Akhtar c Stewart b Mullally	1
A Flintoff b Hollioake	112
Zaben Qadri c Hick b Croft	30
Imran Bucher c Austin b Hollioake	8
Aamer Gull c Croft b Hick	4
Asim Sheikh c Hollioake b Fraser	6
Khurshid Bhinder not out	19
Amin Khan lbw b Fraser	4
Extras (b 2, lb 6, w 3, nb 5)	16
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	238

Ala-ur-Rehman, Sohail Hussain did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-21, 3-84, 4-141, 5-198, 6-206, 7-206, 8-224, 9-238

BOWLING: Gough 8-1-27-1; Mullally 6-0-19-1, Fraser 10-0-68-2, Austin 5-0-31-1; Croft 5-1-15-1; Ealham 5-0-37-0, Hollioake 5-1-23-2, Hick 6-2-12-1

Umpires: M Iqbal and J Ashraf.

One-day international

India v Pakistan

MOHALI (India won toss): Pakistan beat India by seven wickets

INDIA

S C Ganguly c Shahid b Imran	57
†S S Karim c Ijaz b Mahmood	18
R Dravid c Afridi b Akhtar	0
*A D Jadeja b Mahmood	14
A Khurasia st Moin b Saqlain	6
R R Singh run out	42
V Sehwag lbw b Shoaib	1
H Kanitkar run out	12
L Shukla c Imran b Saqlain	5
G Pandey not out	4
B K V Prasad st Moin b Saqlain	4
Extras (b 1, lb 10, w 17, nb 5)	33
Total (49.5)	196

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-47, 3-54, 4-71, 5-145, 6-150, 7-172, 8-186, 9-186

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 10-0-42-0; Shoaib Akhtar 10-1-18-2; Azhar Mahmood 10-1-31-2, Imran Nazir 10-0-45-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 9.5-0-49-3

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Karim b Prasad	0
Shahid Afridi c Dravid b Prasad	16
Imran Nazir c Karim b Prasad	4
Ijaz Ahmed not out	89
Inzamam-ul Haq not out	63
Extras (b 4, lb 2, w 14, nb 5)	25
Total (3 wkts, 42 overs)	197

Azhar Mahmood, *Wasim Akram, †Moin Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Nazir, Shoaib Akhtar did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-14, 3-34.

BOWLING: Prasad 10-2-27-3; Shukla 10-0-37-0; Singh 7-0-24-0; Ganguly 5-0-28-0; Pandey 3-0-21-0; Kanitkar 4-0-21-0; Sehwag 3-0-35-0.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group one: Italy 1 Belarus 1; Switzerland 2 Wales 0. **Group two:** Latvia 0 Greece 0. **Postponed:** Slovenia v Albania. **Group three:** Germany 2 Finland 0; Moldova 0 N Ireland 0. **Group four:** France 2 Armenia 0; Russia 6 Andorra 1; Ukraine 1 Iceland 1. **Group five:** Luxembourg 0 Bulgaria 2; Poland 0 Sweden 1. **Group six:** San Marino 0 Spain 6. **Group seven:** Azerbaijan 0 Romania 1; Liechtenstein 0 Portugal 5; Slovakia 0 Hungary 0. **Group eight: Postponed:** Croatia v Malta, Yugoslavia v FYR Macedonia. **Group nine:** Lithuania 1 Estonia 2; Scotland 1 Czech Republic 2.

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Forest Green 1 Hednesford 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Congleton 0 Netherfield Kendal 0

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: RC Warwick 1 Redditch 3; Solihull Boro 1 Cinderford 2. **Southern division:** St Leonards 3 Andover 1. **League cup: Semifinal, second leg:** Sutton Coldfield 1 Boston 0 (Sutton win 3-2 on aggregate).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham 3 Blackburn 1. **First division:** Bolton 0 Oldham 2; Middlesbrough 4 Manchester City 2, Port Vale 2 Barnsley 0, West Bromwich 0 Tranmere 3.

GOLF

ST CLOUD, France: French junior women's open championship: Leading first-round scores (England unless stated): **71:** M Monnet (Fr). **72:** V Auffret (Fr), R Hudson. **73:** V Zorzi (It), M Lepine (Fr), M Beautell (Sp). **74:** D Simon (Ger), K Fisher, K Icher (Fra), K Taylor, V Laing (Scot), L Walters, F Piovano (It), A Arquero (Sp), N Clau (Sp). **75:** C Gaul (Ger), R Pozza (It), M Cosenza (It), M Eberl (Ger). **Other scores: 77:** A Keighley, C Court, L Kenny (Scot). **78:** L Wright. **79:** S Heath, S Garbutt. **80:** R Adby, C Ritson. **81:** O Briggs

HOCKEY

BUENOS AIRES: Quadrangular tournament: South Africa 0 England 6; Argentina 4 Argentina B 1.

ANTWERP: European youth trophy: Under-16: Boys: England 3 Ireland 1, Belgium 3 Scotland 0. **Girls:** Belgium 5 Scotland 1; Ireland 1 England 5.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 2 Los Angeles 1; Florida 3 New York Islanders 5, New Jersey 7 Anaheim 1; Chicago 2 Buffalo 1; Dallas 6 Tampa Bay 4; Vancouver 5 Toronto 6, San Jose 2 Colorado 3

RUGBY UNION

Wednesday's late results

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Newcastle 43 London Scottish 20

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Newport 13 Pontypridd 16

CLUB MATCH: Blackheath 17 Royal Navy 41

SNOOKER

TELFORD: Embassy world championship: Eighth qualifying round (England unless stated): C Scanlon bt P Sweeny 10-5; S James bt C MacGillivray (Scot) 10-5, G Greene bt A Burden 10-8, J Birch bt S O'Connor (Ire) 10-7, M Fu (HK) bt R Milkins 10-4; M Judge (Ire) bt M Geudens (Bel) 10-6; L Griffin bt M Davis 10-5; E Henderson (Scot) bt P Wykes 10-8, I McCulloch bt P Lines 10-8; J Lardner (Scot) bt Q Hann (Aus) 10-8; D Finbow bt D Henry (Scot) 10-8, L Fernandez bt B Jones 10-9; J Perry bt N Gilbert 10-6, N Pearce bt G Ponting 10-7

SAILING

PALMA, Spain: Olympic Classes Regatta (after day one): **49er class** (after 4 races): 1, M Hestbek and J Persson (Den) 11pts; 2, F Bruni and G Bruni (It) 13; 3, M Audineau and J Farnerier (Fr) 13. **British Placings:** 4, I Barker and S Hiscocks 15; 5, T Robinson and Z Elliot 17; 31, A and I Budgen 59. **Finn class** (after 3 races): 1, I Ainslie (SA) 8; 2, M Kusnierewicz (Pol) 11; 3, F Loof (Swe) 17. **British Placings:** 5, I Percy 19; 11, D Mellor 36; 19, J Lea 58. **Tornado class** (after 3 races): 1, D Bundock and J Forbes (Aus) 10; 2, F D Torre and P G Serventi (It) 12; 3, J Mouriac and P Mouriac (Fr) 16. **British Placings:** 7, H Styles and S Lovegrove 30; 15, J Pierce and B Roche 42; 20, R Wilson and W Howden 61. **Mistral female** (after 2 races): 1, M del Carmen Vaz Parda (Sp) 3; 2, A Lux (Ger) 3; 3, A Galecka (Pol) 8pts. **British Placings:** 7, C Johnston 16; 23 J Clague 55. **Mistral Male** (after 2 races): 1, F Duthil (Fr) 3; 2, M Malek (Pol) 3; 3, N Baudou (Fr) 4. **British Placings:** 17, D Tidey 19; 23, N Dempsey 26; 28, G Rogers 31; 46, G Monck 48; 61, B Proffitt 62. **Europe class** (after 3 races): 1, H Montilla (Sp) 8; 2, A Mason (NZ) 9; 3, C Brouwer (Neth) 10. **British Placings:** 23, J Singleton 43.

SWIMMING

HONG KONG: World short-course championships: Men: 200m freestyle: 1, I Thorpe (Aus) 1min 43.28sec (world record); 2, M Klim (Aus) 1:43.78; 3, P van den Hoogenband (Neth) 1:44.39. **50m backstroke:** 1, R Falcon (Cuba) 24.34sec; 2, M Siembida (Pol) 24.41; 3, M Welsh (Aus) 24.70. **50m breaststroke:** 1, D Kraevski (Ukr) 27.40sec; 2, P Isaksson (Swe) 27.57; 3, R Lutolf (Switz) 27.59. **400m medley:** 1, M Dunn (Aus) 4min 06.05sec; 2, M Wouda (Neth) 4:09.29; 3, F Hvild (Sp) 4:10.92. **4 x 100m freestyle:** 1, Australia 3min 11.21sec (Commonwealth record); 2, Netherlands 3:11.57 (European record) 3.11.57; 3, Sweden 4:12.69; 4, Great Britain 4:14.49 (national record). **Women: 200m butterfly:** 1, M Jacobsen (Den) 2min 06.52sec; 2, P Thomas (Aus) 2:06.53; 3, S Skou (Den) 2:08.29; 7, M Pedder (GB) 2:10.76 (heat, 2:10.21, British record). **50m breaststroke:** 1, M Tanaka (Japan) 30.80sec; 2, P heyns (SA) 30.88; 3, Han Xue (China) 31.24; 7, Z Baker (GB) 31.55. **400m medley:** 1, Y Klochkova (Ukr) 4min 32.32sec; 2, J Mater (Can) 4:34.90; 3, L Becerra (Sp) 4:38.44. **4 x 200m freestyle:** 1, Sweden 7min 51.70sec (world record); 2, Great Britain 7:53.98 (Commonwealth record); 3, Australia 7:55.81.

TENNIS

SUNDERLAND: Girobank Tour: Men: Second round: N Gould (Avon) bt J Cains (S Wales) 6-0, 6-2; J Fox (Lincs) bt M Trudgeon (Cornwall) 7-5, 6-2; J Smith (Northants) bt R Matheson (W Scotland) 7-6, 1-0 ret; D Crawley (Norfolk) bt V Snyman (SA) 6-2, 6-3. **Quarter-finals:** Gould bt S Harston (Essex) 6-4, 6-4. P Hand (Berks) bt J Murray (Yorks) 6-3, 6-3. Smith bt Fox 6-3, 6-2; R Hanger (Dorset) bt Crawley 6-2, 6-0. **Semi-finals:** Gould bt Hand 6-0, 6-3; Hanger bt J Smith 6-3, 6-3. **Final:** Gould bt Hanger 6-0, 6-3. **Women: Quarter-finals:** L Perkins (Durham and Cleveland) bt C Udofa (Nigeria) 6-3, 6-0; J Osman (Sussex) bt N Trinder (Northumberland) 6-2, 6-3; Y Doyle (Ire) bt A Blow (Leics) 6-0, 6-1; M Berry (Suffolk) bt G Atherton (Lancs) 6-3, 6-3. **Semi-finals:** Osman bt Perkins 6-3, 6-3; Doyle bt Berry 6-3, 6-0. **Final:** Doyle bt Osman 6-3, 6-2.

SOUTH CAROLINA: WTA Family Circle Cup: Second round: M Seles (US) bt O Barabanchikova (Bela) 6-3, 6-0; P Schnyder (Switz) bt L Raymond (US) 6-4, 6-2; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt A-G Sidot (Fr) 6-1, 6-1; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt R Grande (It) 6-1, 6-2; M Hingis (Switz) bt S Plischke (Austria) 6-3, 7-5, C Martinez (Sp) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6-3, 6-0; S Farina (It) bt V Ruano Pascual (Sp) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3; A Glass (Ger) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-3, 6-4; I Majoli (Cro) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	70	80	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	1	28/3
Austria								
Obergurgl	40	265	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	4	28/3
Soll	40	140	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	5	23/3
St Anton	70	470	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	8	24/3
Canada								
Lake Louise	150	162	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-4	31/3
France								
Alpe d'Huez	149	340	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	4	28/3
Avoriaz	225	245	Fair	Slushy	Varied	Sun	-1	27/3
La Clusaz	30	260	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	5	28/3
La Plagne	150	230	Slushy	Slushy	Varied	Sun	12	28/3
La Tania	101	259	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	8	27/3
Les Arcs	116	328	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	11	28/3
Tignes	138	280	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	7	27/3
Val Thorens	120	250	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	10	27/3
Valmorel	95	210	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	9	27/3
Italy								
Cervinia	120	230	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	5	27/3
Cortina	25	100	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	5	27/3
Livigno	60	198	Good	Slushy	Spring	Sun	11	28/3
M di Campiglio	50	100	Fair	Open	Varied	Sun	12	28/3
Norway								
Geilo	110	110	Good	Open	Spring	Fine		28/3
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	45	290	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	3	28/3
Davos	125	290	Good	Open	Spring	Fair	9	22/3
Grindelwald	50	280	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	11	27/3
Klosters	80	290	Good	Hard	Spring	Sun	9	22/3
Murren	70	300	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	8	27/3
St Moritz	50	100	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	10	27/3
Villars	40	240	Good	Open	Spring	Sun	5	27/3
Wengen	40	150	Good	Open	Spring	Fine	9	27/3
United States								
Aspen	125	145	Good	Open	Varied	Wind	13	27/3
Deer Valley	205	235	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	4	1/4

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes; U = upper slopes

Tour of Flanders disrupted as fallout from 'Festina Affair' continues

Cycling in chaos as police act

By Jeremy Whittle

THE doping scandals that enveloped the 1998 Tour de France erupted again yesterday, threatening the Tour of Flanders World Cup race that is due to take place this weekend. Daniel Baal, the president of the French Cycling Federation and vice-president of the International Cycling Union (UCI), and riders and management from Mapei, the world's No 1 professional team, were formally investigated by Belgian and French authorities.

Baal was formally charged by the French judiciary in Lille yesterday morning with doping offences as the fallout from the "Festina Affair" last July continued to devastate professional cycling's administrative hierarchy.

Meanwhile, in Belgium, the Three Days of De Panne stage race was thrown into chaos as Patrick Léfevère, the Mapei team manager, was taken into custody, along with Tom Steels, his team's former Tour de France stage winner, who was leading the race. Under Belgian law, they can be kept in custody for up to 24 hours.

The police action outraged Hein Verbruggen, the UCI president, who described the detention of Léfevére and his riders as "an attack on cycling". Verbruggen also defended Baal, his deputy. "I'm sure that the French Federation have done everything in their power in the war against doping," Verbruggen said. "I have complete confidence in Daniel Baal."

Léfevére and his team were prevented from starting the third stage of the race after a package found at the Courtrai depot of the DHL courier company, addressed to the Mapei team hotel, was passed on to police amid allegations that it contained a range of doping products. The Belgian authorities have so far confirmed only that amphetamines were found in the package.

Léfevére was being questioned by Belgian police as the stage got under way, although, on hearing of his detention, several team managers and riders refused to continue and the stage was cancelled. After Léfevére had been detained, all the Mapei riders, including Johan Museeuw, the former world champion, and Michele Bartoli, the world No 1, were also taken in for questioning.

"We're trying to establish whether there was a link between the destination of this package and the Mapei team," Louis Deneckere, the Belgian prosecutor, said. "The inquiry is only in its preliminary stages, but it may yet affect the smooth running of the Tour of Flanders."

At the same time, in Lille, Baal was protesting his innocence after spending four hours being interviewed and then charged by Judge Patrick Keil, who has led the French investigation since last summer. "All the charges against me have no foundation," Baal, one of the most voluble recent critics of the ethical decay in professional cycling, said.

PATRICK HOLDERBEKE



Museeuw, centre, and fellow members of the Mapei team were taken for questioning by Belgian police yesterday

Earlier this week, Richard Virenque, the leader of the Festina team that was expelled from the Tour de France last year, and Roger Legeay, team manager of the Credit Agricole team that includes Chris Boardman, of Great Britain, were also formally charged by the French authorities under 1989 anti-doping legislation. Virenque was charged with conspiracy to make available and use doping products and with conspiracy to import, purchase and make available poisonous substances.

According to the "ethical code" introduced by the Société du Tour de France last autumn, riders facing investigation for doping offences are liable to be excluded from the race. The possible exclusion of Virenque, still a French national hero, will provide a stern test of the Tour organisation's resolve.

Late yesterday afternoon, Jean-Marie Leblanc, the director-general of the Tour, arrived at the Palais de Justice in Lille to meet Judge Keil after eight hours of interviews with the French police, during which he was placed in custody but not charged. An hour later, Leblanc emerged and declared that Judge Keil had been "satisfied" with his answers.

In total, 13 people, including riders, team managers, masseurs, pharmacists, administrators and team doctors have been charged since the investigations began last July. The inquiry is now thought to be reaching its final stages.

Museeuw and Bartoli are both past winners of the Tour of Flanders and are favourites for the race this year, which starts in Bruges on Sunday morning and is scheduled to pass through Museeuw's home town of Gistel. However, the participation of the Mapei team, if not the event itself, is now thought to be under threat.

GOLF

Misty-eyed Faldo seeks rule clarity

From John Hopkins, golf correspondent in Atlanta

FOG delayed the start of the BellSouth Classic here yesterday morning. A visitor from Great Britain would have found a familiar scene had he been at this sprawling venue just before 7am, when the Tournament Players' Club at Sugarloaf in Duluth, a suburb of Atlanta, was wreathed in a light fog. The visibility was poor and there was dampness and cold hanging in the air.

Play was delayed for two hours for the fog to lift and, when it did, Nick Faldo was one of the first to start. He, Billy Andrade and Paul Goydos were playing in the group immediately behind David Duval, the man of the moment in golf in the United States.

Faldo birdied the 2nd hole, a short par three, to move to one under par and was proceeding steadily until he nearly got caught in another rules tangle, rather like the one that saw him disqualified from the Players Championship last Sunday.

On the 6th, Faldo's second shot, a lay-up, ended in casual water, from which he dropped out. His ball rolled into ground under repair and he was about to play it when Andrade urged caution, as Corey Pavin had not in Jacksonville, Florida, on Sunday. "If you're not sure Nick, you'd better get a rules official," Andrade said.

Andrade and Goydos continued with the hole while Faldo waited for Steve Carmen, a rules official, to come and give his ruling.

"You can play it if you want to or drop it if you want to," Carmen said. Faldo, whose instinct had been to play the ball all along, did so and got his par.

A feature of this course is the enormous distances between greens and tees. The 8th tee is 225 yards from the 7th green, for example. This adds many minutes to a round.

In fact, Greg Norman, the designer, may have put the cause of walking around a golf course, rather than riding in a buggy, back ten years by the way he has laid out this course, which does not so much sit on rolling land as sprawl all over it.

It is said that you walk nine miles when you play one round, which is clearly silly because it means that almost everyone is going to have to take a buggy. I suspect that the distances between greens and tees, when added together, would total a 5,000-plus yard course.

Faldo dropped a stroke on the 7th when his second shot ran over the back of the green and he could not chip back on to the putting surface, but then birdied the 9th to go out in 35, one under par. By his standards, this was an encouraging start.

Ian Woosnam who had teed off on the 10th at much the same time as Faldo had begun from the 1st, reached his turn in 36, level par. He was six strokes behind Grant Waite, the leader, who had played 11 holes, and five behind David Frost, who had six holes of his first round still to play.

Duval, who had birdied the 4th hole, then added a string of three consecutive birdies starting at the 10th to be four under par.

MURAD SEZER



Faldo is hoping to find some return to form in Atlanta

Hanley has no Central reservations

On a busy day of rugby league, **Christopher Irvine** focuses on a hero's return to Wigan

THERE is no forgetting Ellery Hanley at Wigan Warriors, even though the St Helens coach, who amassed 17 winner's medals in six seasons at Central Park, is playing down his long-awaited return today in charge of the sworn enemy. "I've no idea what kind of reception I'll receive from the Wigan fans," he said, "but I'll be blanking everything out apart from the game."

Even though Hanley left Wigan for Leeds in 1991, his image still adorns the place, where he ruled through his force of personality and phenomenal talent. It is a mark of his achievements there that taking the coaching job at St Helens has not diminished his standing in the eyes of most Wigan supporters.

Never one for sentiment, Hanley said: "I enjoyed my days as a Wigan player, but that's history now. My only concern is to ensure my squad is mentally and physically prepared for an enormous game."

Hanley extended his clear-sighted objectives to his players after the last JJB Super League home match against Gateshead Thunder by imposing an alcohol ban over their Easter programme of three matches in eight days. After Wigan, they face Bradford Bulls on Monday and then travel south to play London Broncos next Friday. "I believe alcohol impairs judgment and we have three difficult games," Hanley said.

John Monie, the Wigan coach, believes that St Helens are a tougher prospect under Hanley than they were last year. "We had three fairly easy wins against them, but they're paying much more attention to their defensive game," Monie said. "They have unpredictability in the halves, two of the biggest centres in the game in Iro and Newlove, and Ellery's toughened the pack up."

The stark truth is that St Helens have a miserable record at Central Park, winning just once in 15 visits. On the occasion of their last victory there, Good Friday two years ago, Sean Long, now the St Helens scrum half, was a substitute in a below-par Warriors side, who were beaten 22-10. Since changing allegiances, Long, a born-and-bred Wiganer, has lost in all four games against his hometown club.

"It was a weird feeling at first to be playing against Wigan and I took plenty of stick," Long said. "I still live in Wigan and I feel I've something to prove."

Should it come down to a place-kicking duel, Long is trusting that work on his technique with Dave Alred, the multi-code kicking guru, can give him the edge over the prolific Andy Farrell, who has scored for Wigan in 50 successive cup, league and play-off matches.

The only name in the Wigan 17 familiar from Hanley's days is West — Dwayne West, the teenage son of Graeme, the former Wigan forward and coach, who is expected to make his debut from the bench. Simon Haughton is restored to the second row and there is encouraging news on Denis Betts, who could make his comeback from an injury sustained last August at Wakefield Trinity on Monday.

St Helens, who need to cut down on their errors, are disadvantaged in the forwards, with Chris Joynt still injured and Paul Davidson suspended. Chris Smith comes into contention on the wing after a two-match ban, along with Anthony Sullivan, who has been largely overlooked by Hanley after his spell in rugby union.

With demands for Challenge Cup final tickets high, the attendance at the Stoop Memorial Ground for the visit this afternoon of Hull Sharks, in bottom place, will be watched for an upsurge in interest, as London seek to extend a six-match winning sequence. Shaun Edwards and Robbie Beazley, who both scored in the semi-final defeat of Castleford Tigers, undergo late fitness tests.

The threads by which Andy Gregory is holding his job as coach of Salford Reds could snap with another defeat at the Willows. Gregory is already subject to an internal disciplinary procedure after public criticisms of his players, who face a Warrington Wolves side in confident mood after two opening league victories.

Gateshead have their best chance to break their duck at the Gateshead International Stadium tonight, although Wakefield, their fellow Super League newcomers, have had the better start by upsetting Salford and nearly beating Castleford. Deon Bird is missing for the Thunder after breaking a finger in training. Andrew Hick returns from suspension, as does Tony Kemp for the visitors.

In two all-Yorkshire encounters, Sheffield Eagles and Huddersfield Giants are looking to get off the mark. Halifax Blue Sox are away at Castleford, where they have not lost in the Super League. Lee Harland, the former Halifax player, takes his place in the Castleford second row after an Achilles' tendon injury, while Kelvin Skerrett returns to the Halifax front row.

CRICKET

ICC hits back after attack on Dalmiya

By Our Sports Staff

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) has responded to criticism of Jagmohan Dalmiya, its chairman, by Matthew Engel, the editor of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*.

Engel called for the resignation of Dalmiya over the sport's match-fixing scandal, but David Richards, the ICC chief executive, praised Dalmiya yesterday for his efforts to tackle the allegations.

Richards said: "One of Mr Dalmiya's main achievements has been persuading the countries of the need for a united international response to the allegations of match-fixing."

In his notes to launch the 1999 edition of *Wisden*, Engel described the scandal as the worst crisis since the Bodyline tour. "It is eating away at cricket's most vital asset: its reputation for fair play," he said. "Bodyline was easily solved by amending the Laws. This one is far harder to control. Cricket's response so far has been pathetic, almost frivolous.

"Dalmiya almost split world cricket trying to take charge of the ICC. Having succeeded, he has given the game no leadership whatever. He should resign and be replaced [illegible] ing that leadership. The Australian Cricket Board was finally forced to admit something it had known, and covered up, since February 1995."

Mark Waugh and Shane Warne, who had made the original allegations of attempted match-fixing against Salim Malik, the former Pakistan captain, themselves accepted thousands of dollars from an Indian bookmaker for providing innocuous information.

However, speaking about the criticism, Richards said: "In January, countries established the ICC Code of Conduct Commission.

"Its role is to oversee and coordinate the investigation by member countries. The Australian Cricket Board recently conducted a thorough investigation arising from the Waugh-Warne allegations, while the Pakistan government judicial inquiry is nearing completion."

Richards also rejected allegations of a lack of leadership from Dalmiya, adding: "Mr Dalmiya masterminded the commercial success of the 1998 Wills International Cup, which has generated significant funds for the ambitious ICC development programme to globalise the game."

CANOEING

Marathon tests the toughest

CONCEIVED in a pub, the Greyhound in Pewsey, the Devizes to Westminster canoe race has developed into a great test of resilience and endurance. The fastest boats aim to complete the 125-mile course in less than 18 hours, the record being 15hr 34min, but the majority of competitors aim merely to finish.

One such competitor, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the Arctic explorer, will be competing with Steven Seaton, the editor of *Runners World*, and will be looking to better his 1998 time of 30 hours. The favourites in the blue riband K2 class for men will be Dierckx and Verduyckt, of Belgium, who came first and second in the singles category last year. However, they will need to beat Elliott and Wibrew, of Maidstone, and Morrissey and O'Meara, of Ireland, over the course that takes competitors from Devizes, along the Kennet and Avon Canal to Reading and then on to the River Thames to London.

Adrian Hemery, the son of David Hemery, the Olympic 400 metres hurdles gold medal-winner, will represent Dauntseys School in a junior category.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Bronson suspended

■ **ATHLETICS:** Bryan Bronson, of the United States, the world's leading 400 metres hurdler, has been suspended after it was revealed that he failed a drugs test in Rome on July 14 last year. Bronson, 26, the bronze medal-winner at the 1997 world championships in Athens, clocked the third-fastest time ever — 47.03sec — when winning the United States title last June. However, after winning in Rome in the following month, a laboratory analysis of Bronson's urine sample was found to have "abnormal steroid concentrations". The delay followed a medical report that took six months to reach the IAAF.

Hingis faces tough task

■ **TENNIS:** Martina Hingis needed five match points before defeating Sylvia Plischke, of Austria, 6-3, 7-5 in the second round of the Family Circle Cup women's tournament in South Carolina. Hingis meets Conchita Martinez, of Spain, in the third round. Martinez, the No 10 seed, beat Alexia Dechaume-Balleret of France 6-3, 6-0, and has lost only three games in the previous two rounds.

Warren loses Woodhall

■ **BOXING:** Richie Woodhall, the World Boxing Association super-middleweight champion, has followed Naseem Hamed and severed all links with Frank Warren. He has terminated two agreements he had with Warren, citing irreconcilable differences. The 30-year-old, who joined Warren in May 1997, will now be self-managed, although it is unclear who will promote his next contest.

Pakistan cruise to victory

■ **CRICKET:** Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq hit unbeaten half-centuries as Pakistan cruised to a seven-wicket victory over India in the the Pepsi Cup tournament in Mohali. Both sides had already qualified for the final on Sunday in Bangalore, having beaten Sri Lanka. Chasing a modest victory target of 197, Pakistan reached the target in 42 overs.

Pride demands Lions should stay home-reared

The present Five Nations Championship might be highlighting a dilemma. What is to happen to the Lions? This may appear to be a premature question, seeing that they are not due to embark on their next tour, to Australia and New Zealand, for another two years yet, but, in fact, time is short.

Debates about the future of British Isles tours have arisen largely at home, hardly ever in the countries that the Lions visit. The home nations can travel individually to the southern hemisphere as often as they like, but they stir a mere ripple of interest in comparison to the tidal wave that consumes these countries whenever their territory is entered by the Lions.

'Rules can be bent this way and that'

Their reputation and charisma cannot be replaced. There may be some romantic notion attached to their presence, the old collective kinship, perhaps, or the idea that the Lions represent a cavalier style of rugby that is not so obvious a characteristic of their own national teams — even if such a statement is not true to the same extent these days — or, simply and less charitably, they present the opportunity for the colonials to give the old country a good thumping. However varied the reasons may be, a clamorous welcome awaits the Lions.

There is also an eminently practical reason, too, one which is unavoidably important. The host unions know on which side their bread is buttered. The visit of the Lions represents a good pay day. The revenue from such a tour far exceeds that which a visit from any one of the separate home unions might bring. It is not the actual existence of the Lions that is in question — that matter has been resolved, for the time being at any rate — it is more a question of who will play for the Lions in future, and who will coach them.

These queries were the subject of debate over a cosy lunch recently in one of Piccadilly's famously convivial watering holes. Around the table were players who, in a previous incarnation, had been Lions.

Former players of a certain vintage find, to a combination of fun and concern, that it is time for a reunion. Troublingly, however enjoyable, these anniversaries appear to come around at a somewhat faster rate than they once did and point to a more solemn truth. It was all such a long time ago.

It was Tom Kiernan, chairman of the European Rugby Cup, but who less stressfully once held the more agreeable positions of captain of Ireland and the Lions, who prompted the debate about the future constitution of British Isles touring teams. This was at the time when the argument arose about the possibility that Joel Stransky might qualify, on residential grounds, to play fly half for England. If this were to be the case, might he then not also qualify to play for the Lions? Thus, having once been a Springbok who dropped the famous goal that sent his country into the history books by winning the World Cup, the possibility could arise that he might return to his homeland to play against them.

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

Shane Howarth and Brett Sinkinson are playing for Wales this season and John Leslie for Scotland. The trio are all originally from New Zealand, but, on the form that they have shown in recent internationals, they would be automatic Lions candidates. What change of flavour might this represent in the touring party? There are others in this season's championship who have similar qualifications. Indeed, as Kiernan observed whimsically, what will be the mood of future reunions?

There was no mistaking the allegiances of those around our table. Bob Hiller, Peter Larter and Tony Horton, all of firm English pedigree; Roger Arneil, a pure Scot; John Taylor and Gareth Edwards, of Wales, and Kiernan himself. Future conversations, for sure, might ring to different accents.

The rules can be bent this way and that, we can be of a tolerant nature about who can and cannot qualify, but, in the final analysis, it cannot surely be for the good of British and Irish rugby that we have to look overseas for players to salvage our international reputations.

Let us take another step. Who would coach the Lions? Two of the present national coaches are not home-grown. Both Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, and Graham Henry, who acts in a similar capacity for Wales, are from New Zealand. Before Clive Woodward took over his responsibilities, there was a well-publicised search by England for a coach from overseas. Henry was approached at the time. After Woodward was appointed, John Mitchell, also a New Zealander, became his assistant. The field of choice is limited.

'It cannot be good to look overseas'

The candidates narrow further. Scotland might try this man and that, but when Ian McGeechan decided to stay out of the international fray, they turned, as ever, to the transcendant figure of Jim Telfer, a nonpareil in Scottish rugby.

If he could be persuaded, through his deep sense of his own Scottishness, to do his bit once more for Scotland, it seems doubtful whether he might be persuaded by a similar appeal to go with the Lions again. He has been down that route often enough. He has given freely of his services already. There is, therefore, a shortage of indigenous coaching talent.

Clearly, coaches from New Zealand are capable of raising standards in a way others cannot, but praising them serves only to highlight, at the same time, the dearth of coaches of top calibre in this country. For all the increasing profile of rugby and for all the money that has been spent on its development, there is, in having to turn to the talents of outsiders, an admission of failure.

A formal coaching structure with training, teaching and assessment courses was the brainchild of a Welshman, Ray Williams, yet Wales have benefited least. The story is hardly better elsewhere in these islands. It is a deficiency that requires urgent attention.

David Hands looks at two England outsiders duelling for attention

Forgotten men vie for centre stage

WHILE the great fly half debate has raged in England — should it be Mike Catt or Paul Grayson? Is Jonny Wilkinson ready yet? — two men stand just outside the circle. Mark Mapletoft and Alex King could be forgiven for thinking that they lie beyond even the peripheral vision of the England management, despite their selection this season in A-team squads.

Both have been capped, though King has played for a total of less than 50 minutes in his two games for England, the first against Argentina in 1997, when his appearance allowed an out-of-sorts Mapletoft to move to full back, the second against South Africa last year. They have kept each other company for the successful England A side this year, though King has been limited to one appearance, as a replacement.

They will be together again at Loftus Road on Sunday, though on opposing sides. Mapletoft will be part of the Gloucester squad, but Gloucester are too coy to say that he will play in his favoured No 10 shirt as the West Countrymen challenge Wasps for a place in the Tetley's Bitter Cup final. Injuries are rife in the Kingsholm camp at the moment and Mapletoft could be on duty at full back, centre or even among the replacements.

All things being equal, King will be in his usual, pivotal role during a season in which his powers of recuperation have been tested to the limit. There were few sadder figures than the 24-year-old during England's depleted tour of the southern hemisphere last summer; he made two appearances, one against a New Zealand Academy XV, the other against New Zealand Maoris. The Academy scored 50 points against England, the Maoris 62 and King was one of those dispatched home from New Zealand rather than see out the final week of the tour in South Africa.

Ironically, it was against South Africa in December that King indicated his emergence from the depths into which he had plunged in the summer. Required among the replacements after Grayson sustained a knee injury, he played the last quarter of the match and displayed a confidence that many had thought was beyond him.

He has always been prepared to work hard, be it on his tactical kicking, his goalkicking or his reading of the game. Perhaps, in some ways, his approach has been too self-effacing: fly halves need to be arrogant but King is a more unobtrusive type of player. When he is on song, he makes space for others, so his return to form is testimony not only to the repair work done by his club, but also to his own character.

DAVID ROGERS/ALLSPORT



BARRY BATCHELOR



King, left, and Mapletoft will hope to press their World Cup claims when they meet in the Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final at Loftus Road on Sunday

King emerged, almost fully formed, as a first-class player from Bristol University, a composed footballer capable of running a game, though without the flamboyance of Mapletoft. The man from Gloucester, now 27, basks in the limelight and has the pace — which King does not — to score tries from deep positions, as his tally of six in the Premiership this season confirms.

There was a time when King might have become a Gloucester player. There were talks at Kingsholm in 1996, when he was the Rugby Football Union's young player of the season, but his roots lie in Sussex and Wasps was his eventual choice. Nevertheless, he will sympathise with Mapletoft.

"My old man reckoned you have to take your chances when they come, because there's few enough of them," Mapletoft said, with the feeling of one who, even when England were scraping for players to tour last summer, found that he was not one of them.

Nor has this season been particularly easy. Mapletoft scored two of his tries at Richmond last September, which remains Gloucester's only away victory of the Premiership season. He has had to accept the presence of Simon Mannix in competition for the No 10 shirt, he has learnt to suffer periods on the bench but still he bounces back, as a runner and goalkicker. Against Ireland A, he scored two tries and four conversions in a match-winning display. He now stands third in the list of all-time scorers in A internationals, with 109 from only ten games.

Both players still harbour fantasies about playing in a World Cup. There are precious few stages now upon which to impress Clive Woodward, the England coach, but Sunday is one of them and the winner will have a Twickenham occasion on which to strut his stuff.

Gatland indulges in reshuffle

By Karl Johnston and David Hands

NOBODY will ever be able to accuse Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, of over-use of the panic button. After the now customary defeat at Murrayfield last month, many new faces were anticipated for the match against Italy at Lansdowne Road on April 10, but not a bit of it.

Seven changes and two positional switches have been made, but, with one exception, all the personnel are Gatland men, tried and true. Brian O'Driscoll, the replacement back, who is uncapped, is the only genuine newcomer to the senior squad.

The alterations to the team that started against Scotland feature Rob Henderson replacing Jonathan Bell, Eric Elwood for David Humphreys, Ciaran Scally for Conor McGuinness, Justin Fitzpatrick for Paul Wallace, Ross Nesdale for Keith Wood, Trevor Brennan for Andy Ward and Victor Costello for Eric Miller. Peter Clohessy moves from loose to tighthead prop, his original position, and Dion O'Cuinneagain switches from blind to open-side flanker. Henderson, Scally, Brennan and Costello came on as replacements at Murrayfield.

Matt Mostyn, 23, an Australian with Irish grandparents, Mike Mullins, 28, a New Zealander with a father born in Ireland, and Shane McDonald, 27, another New Zealander, are in the Ireland A team to play their Italy counterparts on April 9.

Gareth Davies, who, as Cardiff chief executive, has been at the forefront of the club's fight with the Welsh Rugby Union this season, is to succeed Ossie Wheatley as chairman of the Sports Council for Wales. The appointment, worth £30,000 a year for a three-day week, means that Davies has had to give up his position at Cardiff, who, along with Swansea, have still to find a formula for returning to the union that has fined them heavily for playing in the Anglo-Welsh series.

Paul Turner, another former Wales fly half, who joined Saracens from Bedford this season as coach to the backs, has been released by the Watford-based club, which put ten players on the transfer list last month.

"This does not reflect upon Paul's ability and commitment," Mark Evans, the director of rugby, said. "We hope his skills will shortly be enjoyed by another top side." Yesterday, however, Turner was being linked with Basingstoke.

IRELAND: C O'Shea (London Irish); J Bishop (London Irish), K Maggs (Bath), R Henderson (Wasps), G Dempsey (Terenure College), E Elwood (Galwegians), C Scally (UCD), J Fitzpatrick (Dungannon), R Nesdale (Newcastle), P Clohessy (Young Munster), P Johns (Saracens, captain), J Davidson (Castres), T Brennan (St Mary's College), D O'Cuinneagain (Sale), V Costello (St Mary's College). Replacements: J Bell (Dungannon), B O'Driscoll (UCD), C McGuinness (St Mary's College), D Corkery (Cork Constitution), A Ward (Ballynahinch), P Wallace (Saracens), K Wood (Harlequins)

England decide to put Best foot forward

There are signs that the Rugby Football Union's antipathy towards the sevens game is changing. England, who rejected an invitation to compete in Hong Kong last week, are to take part in the new International Rugby Board Sevens Grand Prix, which starts in December, with Dick Best as coach. The final event will be held either at Twickenham or the Madejski Stadium, Reading, in May.

Best is looking forward to the challenge. "When I look at the England team, I see the likes of Lawrence Dallaglio, Tim Rodber, Matt Dawson and Nick Beal, who hadn't been heard of in 1993 [when England won the World Sevens]," he said. "That is the value of Sevens. In 1993, Lawrence was plucked from the Wasps second team and there is a chance for a rapid rise to fame for these boys."

Nose for trouble

What is the pet hate of Rupert Moon, the Llanelli and former Wales scrum half? An oncoming lock forward or a hospital pass perhaps? No, the player who, on his own admission, does not possess the smallest nose in the world, lists drunken girls as his greatest dread. "When I'm out on the town, they always want to grab hold of my nose to see whether it is real or not," he said. "When there's a lot of them, it can be really scary."

Ali cleans up

Claim to fame . . . Dan Lyle, the Bath and United States No 8, grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, where he was renowned as a sportsman. Not the best-known, however: his mother can recall a time when she was a girl in high school and her classroom cleaner was a teenage Cassius Clay, working overtime to earn some pocket-money.

Kick starters

Jonny Wilkinson is England's latest kicking wonderkid, but the hunt is already on for the his successor. As part of his testimonial year, Jon Callard is launching a nationwide tour this summer in a bid to unearth the next generation of goalkickers.

Shorts shrift

Dave Lougheed, the Leicester and Canada wing, tried to get into the casino at Monte Carlo recently, but was turned away because he was wearing shorts. No problem: Lougheed, a strapping 6ft 2in and 14st, borrowed some trousers from a woman in his group and tried again.

LOOSE TALK

e-mail: sport@the-times.co.uk

"Perfect sir," the doorman said. The cut was a little tight, but Lougheed enjoyed the experience, by all accounts.

Sefton appeal

Sefton Rugby Club has launched appeals to help two stalwarts who were paralysed last year. Dave Hawkyard sustained a serious neck injury in a game at Southport and is still in the spinal injuries unit at Southport Hospital. He has slight movement in both shoulders and his right wrist. A second tragedy occurred when Alan Pennington, 51, a former coach, chairman and president, fell from a riverbank while fishing and was also paralysed below the neck. Donations can be made to the Hon. Secretary, Sefton RUFC, Thornhead Lane, Leyfield Road, West Derby, Liverpool, L12.

Upper crust

"England have a good balance. As well as some crusty old players, like Martin Johnson and Jason Leonard, they've also got some younger players, like Jonny Wilkinson." Says who? Says Wayne Shelford, the former New Zealand No 8 and captain, who, as a "crusty" player himself, set Northampton on the upward path in the early 1990s. He also comments on the "uncomplicated" nature of the Five Nations Championship. "Super 12 teams try to be too clever and do too much with the ball close in, when they should move it wide at pace," he says. Praise indeed.

Beached Wales

Life's a beach. Or at least it will be in London in June with the launch of beach rugby. The event is sponsored by Fuller's Brewery, which is bringing 750 tonnes of white sand to Hurlingham Park. Some of the world's top former stars will captain the eight international teams, which include England (Peter Winterbottom), Scotland (Gavin Hastings), Wales (Jonathan Davies) and Ireland (Jim Staples).

MARK SOUSTER

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

PLUTON
(c) A mass of rock which has solidified under ground from an intrusion of magma. Plutons have varying shapes, sizes and relationships with the invaded rock surrounding them.

LOOSE SILKY BENT
(c) An annual weed which flowers in early summer, and grows up to 1 metre high. It has broadly opening spreading pannicles, with one-flowered, awned spikelets.

SHAKEHOLE
(a) A roughly circular depression in the landscape, from which water drains into an underground limestone cave system. The term should be used only for a depression formed by the collapse of underlying limestone strata.

TAMBOUR
(a) A flexible shutter used as a closure for cabinets, desks, bedside cupboards, etc. It is made by glueing strips, inserted at either end, into a groove, to strips of linen or canvas.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 ... Qxa2+! 2 Nxa2 Nb3 checkmate

Beeston prepare for Spanish threat

HOCKEY

By Sydney Friskin and Janet Ruff

BEESTON venture into Europe over the Easter weekend for the A division of the Cup Winners' Cup in Amsterdam, where their ability will be tested during the next four days.

Encouraged by their progress in the National League premier division, Beeston begin their challenge today with a match against Atlètic Terrassa, of Spain. Thereafter, they will face opposition in pool B from Dinamo Ekaterinburg, of Russia, and Lille, the French club.

The Spanish side will field several internationals and present the toughest opposition in a pool that Beeston must win to qualify for the final on Easter Monday. Three Rock Rovers, of Ireland, are in the other pool, along with Amsterdam, the hosts, Poctowiec, of Poland, and Minsk, from Belarus.

Beeston's main hopes rest with Keegan, the short-corner expert, who has scored 15 goals in the league, ten from open play. Supplementary firepower can be provided by Cordon, Hammond and Huckle. However, Beeston will be without West and Sully, who are both representing England at under-18 level in Belfast.

England made a flying start to a quadrangular tournament in Buenos Aires when they trounced South Africa 6-0 on Wednesday thanks largely to a hat-trick from Giles.

Slough will endeavour to win the women's European Cup for the first time this weekend in The Netherlands. The English champions have by far the best record in Europe of any British club, but have only five runners-up trophies to show for their efforts.

Ray Burd, the coach, will field an all-international lineup, with the defence marshalled by Karen Brown and strike power supplied by Jane Smith and Mandy Nicholson, of England, and Sue MacDonald, of Scotland. Edinburgh, the Scottish champions, are without Rhona Simpson, their injured Great Britain striker.

In the Cup Winners' Cup in Terrassa, Spain, British hopes rest with Clifton and Glasgow Western.

CURLING

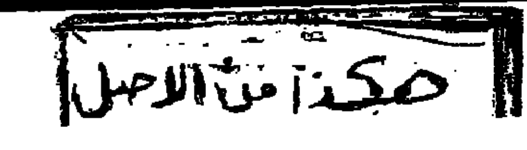
Scotland in fine form

THE Ford world championships get under way tomorrow at St John, New Brunswick, and the Scotland men's squad, skipped by Hammy McMillan, with Peter Loudon and Euan MacDonald, is essentially the Warwick Smith team of earlier this season, with Smith now playing at No 3. They are in fine fettle.

They were one of two teams to beat the Canada squad led by Jeff Stoughton, the former world champion, in the recent World Tour final. Scotland will meet Canada in a round-robin match on Sunday night.

By then, McMillan will hope to have had wins against Denmark and the United States behind him.

The new Scotland women's squad of Debbie Knox, Wendy Bell, Judith Stobbie and Isabel Hannen face Germany, the European champions, in the first of nine preliminary rounds tomorrow morning, followed by Canada in the evening.



Rob Hughes gives a warning to the Great Britain Davis Cup team

Beware Americans bearing praise



GREGORY DUKOR

Courier, Agassi, Tom Gullikson, the coach, Sampras and Martin celebrate winning the Davis Cup in 1995; only Courier and Martin will be in Birmingham

If Einstein was right and nationalism really is an infantile disease, then stay clear of National Indoor Arena in Birmingham this weekend. There is going to be an epidemic of the stuff, a febrile, contagious explosion of Britishness as the majority in a packed arena try to transmit to Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski the will to bring back to these shores the Davis Cup last won in the days of Fred Perry almost 70 years ago.

The first-round tie, against the original enemy, the United States, where the competition was invented a century ago, suggests, on the computer rankings, that our boys have the ascendancy. Indeed, with America's finest declining to take the challenge, with American tennis uncharacteristically talking up the Britons and talking down their own second-string squad, led by Jim Courier and Todd Martin, there is another disease we need to inoculate against: complacency.

Beware the sting of Americans. Beware those who bemoan the absence of Pete Sampras, who said: "My country? No thanks". Beware the double-talk of Andre Agassi, who in December purred on about the Davis Cup giving some kind of special energy above the call of dollars on the ATP circuit, but who has now recoiled with the excuse that he cannot play in a team that drops his favourite doctor.

And be careful of the statistics that place Henman and Rusedski in the top 11, Martin at No 10 and "old" Courier down at No 52. Courier is not so old that, at 28, he has forgotten the relentless hunter that made him, in 1993 and 1994, the most warrior-like tennis player on any surface anywhere in the world.

This has been a week of historic comebacks. In the United States, Wayne Gretzky has defied disc trouble in his neck to put beyond doubt that he is the most amazing gatherer of scoring records in ice hockey. In the Caribbean, Brian Lara has reinvented his mastery at the crease. So how much would it take for Courier, who stands among only six tennis players to reach the finals of all four grand slam tournaments, to become inspired by patriotism? Martin, while never such a winner on tour, is the most consistent American on the circuit and has the mentality for team play that is the core of Davis Cup.

'At 28, Courier is not so old that his game cannot become inspired by patriotism'

Dwight Davis, the Harvard scholar, politician and philanthropist, when he commissioned the most handsome of silver bowls in 1899, could not have envisioned that approaching 150 nations would now seek to hold it. He may have sensed the compulsion, between the United States and what was then the British Isles, would become an engrossing annual affair, exclusively male because the fairer (or, according to this week's newspapers, the more powerful) sex did not compete a century ago.

What began on the lawns of Longwood Cricket Club in Boston now spreads indoors, where Britain has chosen a surface that might suit the serve-and-volley styles of Henman and Rusedski. And what was once, apparently, nationalism cloaked in gentility could well be decided by the unity between two leading Brits — one born and bred here, the other gratefully adopted — and the baying crowd.

David Lloyd, the British Davis Cup captain, has mildly resembled Don King in calling out the patriots to take every available seat in the near-9,000 capacity hall. Lloyd went to town on this after witnessing the fanaticism in the Forum of Milan last December. There, in the final of the Davis Cup last season, 12,600 Italian *tifosi* chorused for 4hr 57min while Andrea Gaudenzi played above his status against Magnus Norman, of Sweden.

It was valour to the point of foolhardiness. Gaudenzi, his right shoulder injured months before, performed like a man obsessed until, at 6-6 in the final set, he could no longer lift a glass, much less swing a racket. The 1998 Davis Cup, and possibly Gaudenzi career, were lost in that muscle-tearing moment, but those who were there, including Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg, Yannick Noah and Vijay Amritraj — Davis Cup fighters from different cultures — all knew why Gaudenzi had to try.

His was the courage of the jump jockey returning to Aintree after crushing his bones there in a fall, the effort of boxers, the will of marathon runners, the desire of a competitive man driven beyond reason by the intoxicating hour of playing for, and with, the people. Money, which Davis never needed, came into it because, although, like most sporting ideals, the Davis Cup was born in Corinthian times, tennis is now among the elite, arguably the sport that places the dollar highest.

And yet, Noah, the captain when France beat all odds to capture the prize in 1991 and 1996, articulates the special affinity of the Davis Cup. "It takes individual character to win the grand slams," he has said, "but what you do in the Davis Cup is sacrifice for others. It's about sharing, it's respecting team-mates. The bonds that you have in a team and the way the crowd share and sense that are feelings above the norm in tennis."

Nationalism a disease? In the right time and the right place, nobody ever died of it.

BASKETBALL

Giants meet Sharks in classic finale

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE closest title race for years — how often is that phrase used? Probably every season, at a rough guess, not just in basketball but in every sport. However, this year British basketball really does have its closest race, not just for years, but ever.

Two years ago, five clubs went into the final month with a chance of the Budweiser League title, but the Leopards eventually won with a game to spare. Last season, the Leopards and Birmingham Bullets took their dispute to the very last day. They both won their respective fixtures to finish level on points, but the Leopards retained the title on the countback of games between the clubs.

Yet when Manchester Giants and Sheffield Sharks meet this afternoon in the Nynex Arena, it will be the classic finale, with the winner taking all. Never before have the two contenders met on the last day with everything at stake.

A week ago, the game had looked to be of no more than academic interest. Last weekend, when the Giants won away to Birmingham, the Sharks seemed certain to repeat their league and cup double of 1985. The first game against Newcastle Eagles went without blips, but the following day, Chester Jets, who had fallen way short of reaching the play-offs, staged the upset of the season to bring about the title showdown.

Psychologically, the advantage is with the Giants, even though they lost both league fixtures between the clubs this season, the second one a fortnight ago when, after his team's controversial double overtime defeat in the Sheffield arena, Nick Nurse abused the referees. For that misdemeanour, the Giants coach was fined £300 and received a two-game ban that will not start until the quarter-final play-offs next week.

The Giants, who reversed their two league losses against the Sharks in both legs of the Uni-Ball Trophy semi-final en route to winning that competition, are, thanks to the resources provided by the American-based Cooke Organisation, the most expensively-built squad in the league.

Under Nurse, formerly coach of the Bullets, the Giants acquired four of the Leopards' title-winners. They were Ronnie Baker, John White, Makeeba Perry and Mike Defoe. Throw in Tony Holley, from Thames Valley Tigers, and Tony Dorsey, who joined from the Bullets, and it was easy to see why the joke pre-season was: "With egos like that, the Giants will need more than one ball." Somehow, Nurse found a solution.

At 29, Chris Finch, the Sharks' coach and a member of their victorious squad in 1995, has performed wonders. If he can raise the morale of a squad that looked demoralised on its way out of Chester, he will be worth every accolade. Under Finch, the Sharks are less flamboyant, but, until last weekend at least, more consistent.

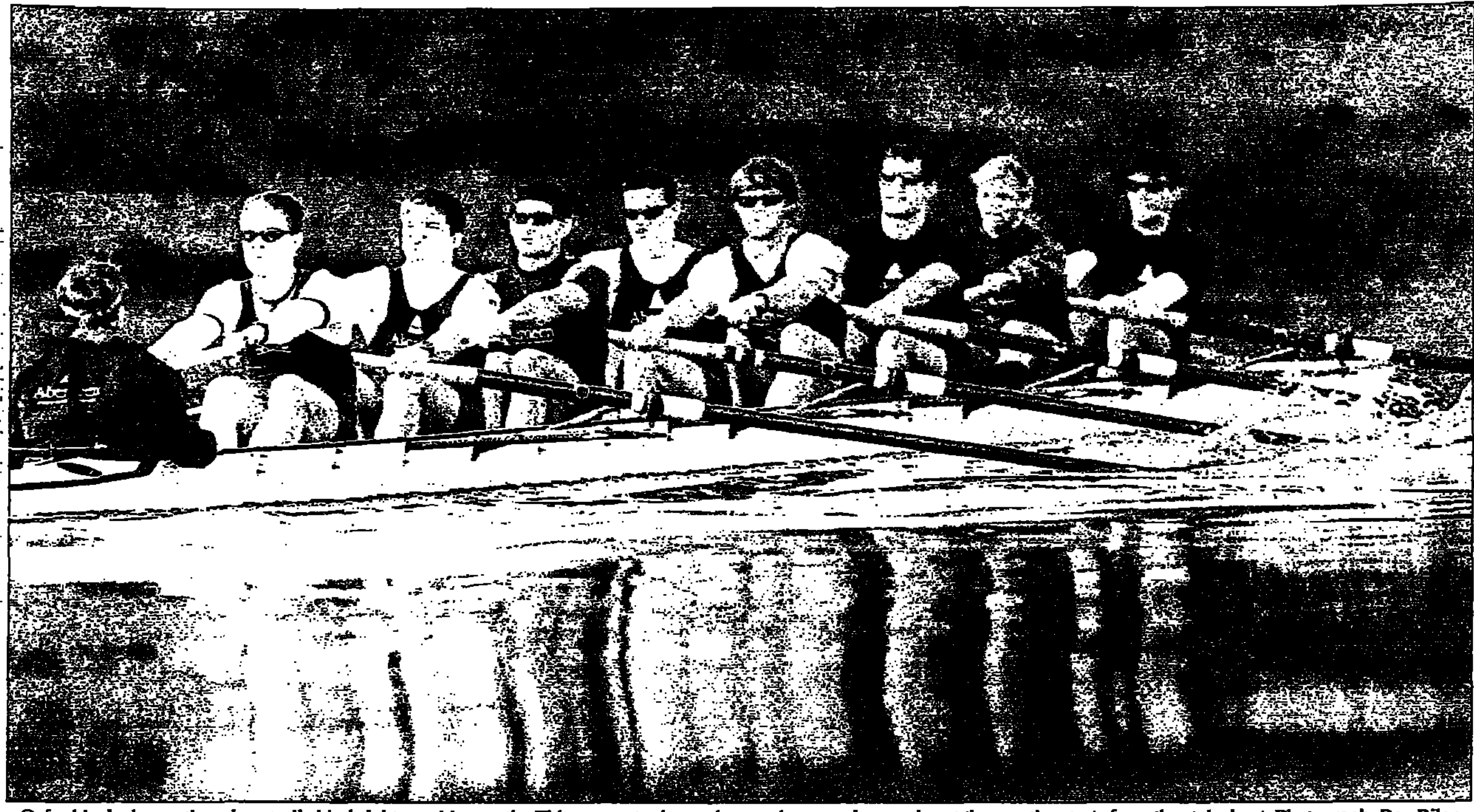
That was hardly surprising since Terrell Myers, Todd Cauthorn and Wil Johnson, the core of the squad last season, all remained. The departure of Matt Gaudio, with a cruciate ligament injury, deprived the Sharks of one outstanding new recruit, but another, Travis Conlan, had already provided an extra spark, as did Peter Scantlebury, the former England captain.

Of all the emotions the respective casts have endured this season, nothing will compare with the torment of today. There may be no more than a point in it.



WEBSITE: www.basketball-league.co.uk

Boat Race: Canadian umpire lays down the law at rehearsals



Oxford looked smooth and controlled in bright sunshine on the Tideway yesterday and were also more impressive at the practice starts from the stake boat. Photograph: Roy Riley

Oxford are starting to impress



Evans: flagged intentions

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

MARK EVANS, the umpire for the 1999 Boat Race, held rehearsals yesterday for the starting procedure for the event proper tomorrow. Evans, who changed the start pattern in both his previous years as umpire, in 1991 and 1993, did so again.

In 1993, Evans, who is from Canada, told the crews that he would be prepared to hold them for up to ten seconds between saying "set" and "go". Consternation about a possibility of such a long gap was not limited to the crews and coaches and Bob Hastings, one of the stake-boat men, whose job is to hold the racing shell in the strong tide, said: "We will let them go if we feel we are going to be pulled out of the boat."

The usual procedure of crews turning their blades in the water before "go" produces considerable drag and Evans stipulated yesterday that the blades should not be turned in the water until he says: "Go."

Both Oxford and Cambridge have been preparing for the new procedure, although not on such a strong tide as they experienced yesterday and that will be duplicated tomorrow. On their showing yesterday, Oxford seem to have mastered it better.

Oxford did three starts, one of ten strokes, and two one-minute rows at full blast in which they set off at at rate of 43½ strokes per minute and kept at 40 for half a minute with good cover. They settled to 36 in the first and 38 in the second. It was a powerful, well-controlled exhibition that took them nearly to the end of the boathouses.

Cambridge had two ten-stroke efforts and one 50-second row, less than a minute in all, presumably to avoid comparison with the distance covered by Oxford. Cambridge had some problems and Oxford looked the quicker away. Both the coxes — Neil O'Donnell, of Oxford, and Vian Sharif, of Cambridge — recorded one failure to attach to the stake boat at their first attempt but recovered quickly.

Both coaches intend to schedule some more starting practice today and were noncommittal about the new method. "I'm happy as long as both crews abide by it," Robin Williams, of Cambridge, said. Sean Bowden, of Oxford, was more cavalier. "Go is when you start races. I'm happy."

Evans, whose starts in 1991 and 1993 were both clean ones, also made his thoughts known to the crews on steering the course. When asked about the clashes that occurred in the tight races of 1997 and 1998, he said: "I have not commented on the last two years to either crew. I was fortunate in my last two appearances and have told them my only goal is a fair race and they know that. I have made it clear to the two stroke men they must help. They are as important as the coxes, since they can see me."

Both coaches are keen to have a clean, fair race. "There has been no deliberate intention over the last few years to do otherwise," Williams said, "but the races have been close and the crews are looking for every edge — and that includes the steering."

In quiet outings before the start rehearsals, Oxford still look favourites, even though Cambridge had a cleaner and more controlled look than earlier in the week. Perhaps a dinner on Wednesday evening at which members of the 1939 and 1949 crews were present had an inspiring influence.

LINKS

The 1999 Boat Race will be rowed tomorrow at 3.30pm and covered live on BBC1

WEBSITE:
www.regatta.rowing.org.uk/boatrace/

TODAY'S OUTINGS:
Oxford 8am and 2.15pm, Cambridge 9.30am and 2.30pm.

ROWING

Champions line up for scull challenge

By Mike Rosewell

THE Boat Race tomorrow has a supreme curtain-raiser today when ten world champions, five men and five women, will race the 4¼-mile course from Putney to Mortlake in single sculls for the Thames World Sculling Challenge.

Disappointingly, Greg Searle, the title-holder and the only Briton entered in the men's race, has withdrawn due to illness. This still leaves Jamie Koven, the 1997 world champion, from the United States, Derek Porter, the 1993 world champion and Olympic silver medal-winner from Canada, Giovanni Calabrese and Stefano Basalini, the heavyweight and lightweight Italian champions, and Iztok Cop, the 1995 world champion, who has been given special dispensation from the Slovenian Army to race during his national service. The tortuous Tideway course will be new to all except Calabrese.

Guin Batten, the British holder of the women's title, knows the course intimately, but so does her elder sister, Miriam, who qualified as the world double sculls champion. Their three opponents are formidable. Pieta van Dishoeck, from The Netherlands, finished second behind Miriam in the 1998 world doubles championship. Sarah Garner, from the United States, is the world lightweight champion, and Ekaterina Khodotovitch, the Olympic and 1997 world champion from Belarus, will be having her first big race since having a baby.

This is the sixth staging of the race and the most impressive field so far assembled. Peter Haining, the triple world lightweight sculling champion, was the guiding force behind the reintroduction of the challenge over the championship course in 1993. He has twice won the title, but, as organiser, will act as umpire for the men. Steve Redgrave will be the race starter and Martin Levy, an international umpire, will control the women.

BOXING: BRITISH REFEREE WHO GAVE HOLYFIELD A DRAW RETURNS TO RING

Board shows faith in O'Connell

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

TO MANY, the scoring of the world heavyweight championship bout between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield brought into question the integrity of those who run world boxing. Eugenia Williams made Holyfield the winner while Larry O'Connell, the British judge, made it a draw. Williams's scoring gave cause for grave concern, but there can be no impuning the integrity of O'Connell.

Scoring it as you see it is the only way of doing the job honestly. That is what O'Connell did. It is significant that many respected British and American boxing writers at ringside also made the bout a draw. Roy Goodman, the New York senator involved in investigating boxing, told O'Connell that he did not have to come back to the city for the inquiry into the bout. "Your reputation preceded you," Goodman's secretary told him.

The British Boxing Board of Control's faith in O'Connell is reflected in the decision to put him in charge of the British heavyweight championship between Julius Francis, the champion, and Danny Williams at the Albert Hall tomorrow. Francis is with Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, who swore that O'Connell would never again be allowed to judge contests involving his boxers; Williams is with Frank Warren.

O'Connell was due to referee the British light-middleweight championship on the undercard, but John Morris, the secretary of the Board, after talking to Maloney, put O'Connell in charge of the heavyweights. Far from being nervous, O'Connell, who has recovered fully from his ordeal by media, is looking forward to tomorrow night.



O'Connell: high reputation

A referee for 23 years and one who has officiated in 49 world championship contests, he said yesterday: "You have to be able to handle criticism. I made an honest decision. If that was a mistake, I have no problem with that. I am looking forward to shaking Maloney's hand."

All the same, O'Connell was a little concerned about how the public would receive him. "I don't know what sort of reception I'll get," he said. "I'll be booed into the ring, or whatever. A lot of people paid a lot of money to go to America. I understand their passion. I can understand them expecting a winner and they thought they had a winner.

"When I put in my score, I thought Lennox had just nicked it. When they called out a draw I said: 'Oh hell, not me!' The last thing we needed in a fight for the undisputed championship was a draw."

Tomorrow, as it is a British championship, O'Connell will be refereeing and judging as well. The dual job does not worry him. "Referees should always score," he said. "They are right there, next to the fighters. You see the punches more, you feel them more."

The week that followed the Lewis v Holyfield bout was the worst of O'Connell's career. He had no sleep for two days because he was answering telephones. He would have retired if his wife had wanted him to, but, with her support and that of fellow referees, he rode out the storm.

Looking back on that night at Madison Square Garden, O'Connell takes comfort from an incident as he left the stadium. An Irishman came up to him, shook his hand and wished him well. "But you know," the man said, "I didn't agree with you at all."

"No?" said O'Connell. "How did you score it then?"

"I had it four rounds to Holyfield," the man said.

"I had to smile," O'Connell recalled.

Baseball in fine fettle to enjoy life after Joe

Keith Blackmore senses optimism unbounded for a national pastime

Joe DiMaggio kept his sense of timing to the end. When he died, aged 84, last month, the Yankee Clipper had lasted just long enough to see the sport that made him famous restored to the nation's affections.

The Major League Baseball season, which begins on Sunday, has a hard act to follow. The 1998 campaign was perhaps the greatest, finally dispersing the clouds of public suspicion and resentment that had gathered after the infamous players' strike that forced the cancellation of the 1994 World Series.

DiMaggio witnessed something that many baseball fans never expected to see: a successful assault on the single-season home-run record of 61 set by Roger Maris, another New York Yankee, in 1961. Mark McGwire, of the St Louis Cardinals, with 70, and Sammy Sosa, of the Chicago Cubs, with 66, did not so much break the record as crush it.

He also lived long enough to see his beloved Yankees complete a season of unprecedented success, winning 125 games and losing only 50 on their way to winning the World Series, a record that gives them a claim to be the best team of all time.

DiMaggio also saw the end of a sequence that had seemed interminable — Cal Ripken's incredible endurance record of 2,632 consecutive games for the Baltimore Orioles. For more than 16 years, Ripken had not missed a game until September 20, when, at last, the ageing warrior chose to sidestep a meaningless fixture against the Yankees.

All in all, the 1998 season was enough to bring a gleam to the eye of even the most disenchanted fan and, by season's end, baseball had been restored to its historic place as the nation's pastime.

Certainly there was enough goodwill for the paying public to turn a blind eye to the mighty McGwire's open use of androstenedione, a body-building drug banned by the International Olympic Committee but oddly permitted by Major League Baseball. Had McGwire come from another part of the world, had he not been such an eminently likeable man, had baseball not needed him so badly to be a superman, he may not have had so easy a ride into the history books.

The spirit of goodwill also obscured an even more threatening problem, one familiar to followers of club football in England and Scotland — baseball is fast dividing into the haves and have-nots.

Last year there were 12 teams with player wage bills of more than $48 million (about £30 million). Eight of those occupied all the end-of-season play-off places and all but one of the 12 won more games than they lost. Of the remaining 18 teams, only three had winning records. As the rich get richer, the chances of one of the poorer teams competing for the big prize diminish.

It does not take a crystal ball to see that once again the Yankees, the Orioles, the Cleveland Indians, the Anaheim Angels and perhaps the Boston Red Sox will dominate the American League, while the Atlanta Braves, the New York Mets, the Houston Astros and the Los Angeles Dodgers do the same in the National League.

Yet there just might be room for surprises. Several of the big clubs have had unexpected setbacks. The Braves lost Andreas Gallaraga, their power hitter, for at least the season as he is treated for cancer, then saw Kerry Ligtenberg, their promising closer, seriously injure his shoulder. The Astros will have to do without Moises Alou, their excellent outfielder, who is also injured for the season.

George Steinbrenner, the Yankees' outrageous owner, has tried to improve an already outstanding team by trading David Wells and prospects to the Toronto Blue Jays for Roger Clemens.

On paper, this makes the Yankees unbeatable, for Clemens is arguably the best right-handed pitcher of the modern era. But Wells fitted well in New York, not just because he was a Yankees fan and a colourful personality, but because he was left-handed. Yankee Stadium, where Clemens must pitch half of his games, favours left-handers.

Few will bet against the Yankees, though, nor on this season matching the last one for drama and excitement, but baseball at least begins life after Joltin' Joe in good heart.

PREDICTIONS

AMERICAN LEAGUE: East: New York Yankees; **Central:** Cleveland Indians; **West:** Anaheim Angels; **Wildcard:** Baltimore Orioles.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: East: Atlanta Braves; **Central:** Cincinnati Reds; **West:** Los Angeles Dodgers; **Wildcard:** New York Mets.

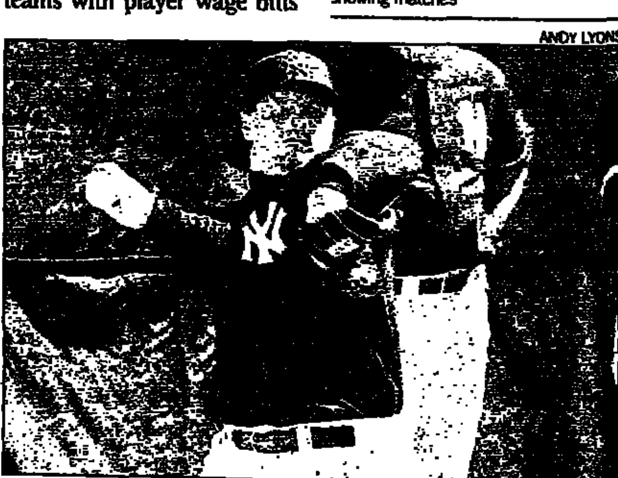
WORLD SERIES: The Yankees to beat the Dodgers.

LINKS

WEBSITE:
www.majorleaguebaseball.com — official site

TELEVISION:
Channel 5 and Sky Sports will both be showing matches

ANDY LYONS



Clemens, now with the Yankees, warms up for the new season

European championship: Substituted Scotland captain could retire

McAllister may find his number up at last

By Kevin McCarra

DEFEAT is always slow to fade, but the reverberations will linger, above all, in the ears of Gary McAllister. He can surely still hear the boos aimed at him by Scotland supporters during their 2-1 defeat by the Czech Republic in the European championship qualifying match at Celtic Park on Wednesday.

The visitors might have gone 3-0 ahead when McAllister lost possession to Patrik Berger. That moment was enough to galvanise the latent hostility of the crowd and every touch by the Scotland captain was jeered thereafter until he was taken off.

McAllister, who refused to comment yesterday, looked dazed upon seeing that it was his number being held up on the substitutes' board. There is now a strong possibility that the poignant scene will constitute the last image of him in his country's colours.

In the wake of cruciate ligament surgery, McAllister, 34, had laboured to reclaim a place in the Scotland side after an absence of 16 months. He returned, however, only to encounter a familiar animosity. Many Scotland fans have long been disgruntled over an individual who has a great gift for knitting play together but who rarely attempts flamboyant deeds.

He is the sort of performer best appreciated when watching a side failing to cope without him. Those who condemned him at Celtic Park will soon have the chance to see for themselves the effect of his absence. Despite sincere expressions of admiration for McAllister, Craig Brown, the manager, must gauge the potential harm if the derision shown towards his captain begins to sour the atmosphere surrounding Scotland.

"The individual is important and I have always been loyal," Brown said, "but it is a team game and in the interests of the team I have to take harsh decisions. I have done that in the past, but, out of respect, I would not make that decision without consulting the player."

Brown is to discuss the issue with McAllister over the weekend, but his retirement from international football seems likely. "McAllister is not a quitter, but he would not be the first to say enough is enough," Brown said. "I am conscious of the fact that he has a family who will be very hurt by the criticism."

Although the unpopularity of McAllister possesses little rationality, a few contributory factors can be identified. The penalty that he missed in the 2-0 defeat by England at Euro 96 may have increased the intolerance and, as a man who left Motherwell to join Leicester City while still young, he does not have the natural constituency in his own country enjoyed by those employed in the Scottish Premier League.

McAllister, with 57 caps, also risks the deprecation that comes to those who have given long service and so become undervalued. He joins a distinguished fraternity of Scotland players who have been maligned virulently.

In 1992, Brian McClair was hectored as he waited to come on as a substitute against Portugal at Ibrox. "He got booed before he even touched the ball," Brown said yesterday. "I can't understand that mentality."

The vilification may have to be accepted as an element of the passion that supporters display when caught up with concern over Scotland's fortunes. They have much to worry them now. Scotland are eight points behind the Czech Republic, who lead group nine, and have to regard a place in the play-offs as their strongest chance of qualifying for the finals.

Despite being spirited on Wednesday, Scotland wobbled in defence and were ineffectual in the opposition goalmouth. Brown admitted that he may speak to Duncan Ferguson, the injured Newcastle United forward, to find out whether he is willing to rescind his retirement from international football. Were the manager's lack of resources not so acute, it would be risible to contemplate a *rapprochement* with a player who failed to score in any of his seven appearances for his country.

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT



McAllister, vilified by supporters, may have made his last appearance for his country in the defeat by the Czech Republic

Desperate Villa seek backdoor entry to Europe

By Chris Moore

THE DECLINE and fall of Aston Villa, who led the FA Carling Premiership for 14 weeks until Christmas, was further underlined last night with confirmation of a pending application to enter the InterToto Cup this summer.

The much-maligned competition provides the winners with a backdoor way into the Uefa Cup, which John Gregory, the Villa manager, concedes is probably the club's most realistic route into Europe next season. Villa have collected only one point from their past eight games and are ten points adrift of the fourth-place finish needed to guarantee Uefa Cup qualification via the Premiership.

"Up until a few weeks ago, I could never have envisaged us thinking seriously about playing in the InterToto tournament," Gregory said. "For the first half of the season, all our aspirations were on playing in the Champions' League. Even after we lost our place in the top three, we felt the least we could achieve was qualifying for the Uefa Cup."

However, Uefa's ruling this week, effectively to award Newcastle United automatic entry into the competition for reaching the semi-finals of the FA Cup, has forced Villa's hand. "Ideally, we would rather not have to compete in the InterToto, but needs must," Gregory said.

"It still depends on dates and how the remainder of our season pans out, but playing in Europe is a minimum requirement for Aston Villa and if we can't qualify via the Premiership, we have to take in the alternatives."

Both Gregory and Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, were outspoken in their indignation over Newcastle's surprise good fortune. "What it means is that they have qualified for Europe by winning just four games in the FA Cup, which is the same number Nottingham Forest have won sitting on the bottom of the Premiership," Gregory said.

"It would have been interesting to see what decision Uefa had made if Barnsley had beaten Tottenham Hotspur to reach the FA Cup semi-finals. I'm not so sure they'd have so readily granted a Uefa Cup place to one of our first division clubs," Ellis said: "It's ridiculous that priority should be given over the Premier League, in which 38 hard-fought matches are involved."

However, Ellis emphasised that Villa will confirm their entry into the InterToto Cup only if they qualify as the highest-placed of the English applicants.



Gregory: alternative route

That would mean playing their first game on July 17, three weeks before the start of the new season. The second English club will have to go into a preliminary round on July 3, which both Ellis and Gregory agree is too early.

Colin Calderwood, the Scotland defender signed for £250,000 from Tottenham last week, will make his Villa debut in the Premiership game with West Ham United at Villa Park tonight. Paul Merson is likely to return in place of the suspended Lee Hendrie, with Julian Joachim replacing Stan Collymore, who is undergoing counselling for clinical depression.

IN BRIEF

■ FIROZ KASSAM, a London hotelier, took control of Oxford United, the Nationwide League first division club, yesterday. The move could secure a long-term future for Oxford, whose season has been overshadowed thus far by the threat of extinction. Kassam, a Tanzania-born businessman, has acquired the 89.5 per cent majority shareholding of the Manor Ground club from Robin Herd, the former chairman.

Kassam has repaid £500,000 worth of club debts to Oxford City council and is expected to double that amount as part of the rescue package. In return, work should begin again on the club's new 15,000-capacity stadium at Minchery Farm. Work on the stadium was halted 18 months ago over a pay dispute.

■ Ramon Vega, the Tottenham Hotspur centre back, looks like missing the rest of the season because of a chipped ankle bone. The Switzerland defender has returned to his homeland after undergoing an operation last week on the ankle he injured in the Worthington Cup final against Leicester City two weeks ago.

■ Dietmar Hamman, the Newcastle United midfield player, is expected to be fit for his side's FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur next weekend. Hamman was injured in Germany's match with Finland on Wednesday night, but the ankle ligament damage is not as bad as first thought. Gaston Taument, the Anderlecht and former Holland winger, is to join Newcastle on a ten-day trial.

■ Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is looking to establish links with three clubs in Argentina. United already have a "memorandum of co-operation" with Royal Antwerp, the Belgium club, and now three young players from Argentina have trained with United.

■ Southampton have been given a £3.5 million grant by the Football Trust for the building of their new stadium. The club received permission for the 32,000-capacity arena on Tuesday.

■ Nottingham Forest are expected to wait until the end of the season to approach Sammy McIlroy, the Macclesfield manager, about taking over at the City Ground. Ron Atkinson, the Forest manager, is unlikely to be retained if the club is relegated to the Nationwide

McMenemy position safe

By George Caulkin

THE pep talk was delivered five miles above sea level, the rhetoric soaring as high as the aeroplane ferrying a weary Northern Ireland squad home to Belfast. Eyes may have been rimmed with red and faces gray with fatigue, but Jim Boyce had people to thank and a message of defiance to deliver.

In spite of the interminable goalless draw in Moldova that virtually closes a slender path to Euro 2000, the president of the Irish FA voiced his gratitude for the effort of players, staff and, crucially, manager: there will be no scapegoat for Northern Ireland's failings and no quick fixes.

He was to embellish his sentiments yesterday, insisting that Lawrie McMenemy's position was, for the time being, secure. "Lawrie is contracted until the end of the qualifying campaign and, without a shadow of a doubt, that remains the case," he said. "After that, the international committee will sit down and look at the situation."

In reality, there are few alternatives. McMenemy and his two assistants, Joe Jordan and Pat Jennings — dubbed the "dream team" when they took control 12 months ago — were high-profile appointees and command the salaries to prove it. Paying off their contracts would not be viable even if it was desirable.

A similar dearth of realistic options bedevils McMenemy's choice of players. His side have scored just six goals in his eight matches to date and although Iain Dowie again performed heroically in the Republican Stadium, at 34, time marches on relentlessly. "We need to unearth a goalscorer," McMenemy said.

For a clutch of players, Dowie included, Wednesday night's debacle will scupper their hopes of reaching the finals of a big competition. Should the Irish subsequently decide that a change of direction is called for, however, the player-coach of Queens Park Rangers hopes to be on hand to reap the benefit.

"That may be a while away, but it would be great to have that on my C.V. when they put me in my casket," Dowie said.

Gould's enthusiasm wears thin

By Russell Kempson

WHEN Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, and his wife, Marjorie, sent out their Christmas cards last year, it raised a chuckle from the recipients. The cards depicted the usual Yuletide scenes, but were embellished by the scorelines "Denmark 1, Wales 2" and "Wales 3, Belarus 2".

Gould could not resist reminding his friends of the most notable results during his three-year tenure of the Principality. They were achieved in the space of five days in Copenhagen and Cardiff last October and took Wales into second place in group one of the European championship qualifying series.

Yesterday, as the squad returned from Zurich after a 2-0 defeat against Switzerland on Wednesday night, Gould cut a forlorn figure. His dry sense of humour had deserted him and the optimism generated by the two victories had evaporated.

Switzerland leapfrogged Wales into second place and, although not quite back to square one, Gould must again rethink his strategies before the next game — a daunting trip to Italy, the group leaders, in June. From looking favourites to fill the runners-up slot and earning a place in the play-offs, Wales must now scrap it out with the Swiss and perhaps Denmark and Belarus.

What most frustrated Gould was that Switzerland, apart from the experienced Stéphane Chapuisat, who scored both goals, and the elegant Ciriaco Sforza, had posed only a limited threat throughout. Wales should have gained at least a draw, yet failed to seize the moment.

"It was a good opportunity, a great opportunity," he said. "We were a bit short on personnel and had to ask people to do certain jobs, but it's not always easy for them to adjust. We were poor. We should have given the Swiss a better game, but we're still not out of it. There's still a lot to play for."

Paul Jones, the goalkeeper, was also pained, but more by the back injury that he sustained in the pre-match warm-up and which forced him to retire in the 26th minute. "I hope it's not as bad as it looked and felt," he said. "I was in agony."

David Jones, the Southampton manager, is unlikely to have the services of his namesake for the games against Arsenal and Coventry City over the Easter weekend.

Nathan Blake, the Blackburn Rovers striker, failed to return from Zurich in time to appear at Newport magistrates in Gwent yesterday to answer a charge of threatening and abusive behaviour. He was arrested last week, while on an evening off from the Wales training camp, after being allegedly involved in a late-night incident in Newport. The case was adjourned until May 5.

Farnborough see light on horizon

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

WHILE the confrontation between Rushden and Diamonds and Cheltenham Town may decide the eventual outcome of the title and dominates the Nationwide Conference programme this weekend, the pressure will be felt just as keenly when Barrow play Farnborough Town at Holker Street tomorrow.

It might not be promotion to the Nationwide League at stake, but retaining a place in the Conference is vital to the wellbeing of clubs that have spent the season fighting for their existence.

If Farnborough are to reach safety, they must win at Barrow, who lie fourth from bottom, four points away. At least Farnborough travel knowing that they have been saved from liquidation — even if a record of not having won away for 11 matches does not inspire confidence.

Graham Westley, the former Queens Park Rangers player, who appeared briefly for Farnborough before going on to coach Enfield and Kingstonian, took over a controlling holding in the club after an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders. He agreed to make up the difference to money raised by supporters to enable a £75,000 payment due under a Company Voluntary Arrangement to be met and also to underwrite the club's losses for the next 18 months.

Tony Alper, the chairman, said: "At least it's a way forward. I'm not saying we won't be in the same position in 18 months' time, but with football clubs these days it's as well to take it a year at a time."

The Cheltenham and Rushden contingents came through unscathed in the England semi-professional international match in The Netherlands on Tuesday. England drew 1-1 at Genemuiden, with the home side equalising in the second half after Warren Patmore, the Yeovil Town forward, had given John Owens' team a first-half lead.

Owens reported that Gary Butterworth, the Rushden midfield player, enjoyed an outstanding match and was also delighted with the defence — Mark Smith, of Stevenage Borough, Michael Danzey, of Woking, and Tim Ryan, of Southport. "The back three and Steve Book [of Cheltenham] in goal did well," he said. "The Netherlands played three up front with an attacking midfield player. It was a good challenge to come up against a system that they don't normally play against."

The England season concludes with a match against a Highland League XI at Chesham on May 21 and an international against Wales at St Albans on May 23.

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden & D	35	19	10	6	61	32	67
Kettering...	38	19	10	9	52	33	67
Cheltenham	34	18	12	4	61	28	66
Yeovil ...	33	16	10	7	54	40	58
Hayes	35	17	7	11	49	45	58
Kingstonian .	33	14	12	7	46	39	54

EURO 2000 QUALIFYING GROUP DETAILS

Group one

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	4	3	1	0	7	2	10
Switzerland	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Wales	4	2	0	2	5	7	6
Belarus	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Denmark	4	0	2	2	3	5	2

RESULTS: Sept 5: Wales 0 Italy 2, Belarus 0 Denmark 0 **Oct 10:** Italy 2 Switzerland 0, Denmark 1 Wales 2 **Oct 14:** Wales 3 Belarus 2, Switzerland 1 Denmark 1 **Mar 27:** Belarus 0 Switzerland 1, Denmark 1 Italy 2 **Mar 31:** Italy 1 Belarus 1, Switzerland 1 Wales 0

FIXTURES: June 5: Italy v Wales, Denmark v Belarus **June 9:** Switzerland v Italy; Wales v Denmark. **Sept 4:** Belarus v Wales; Denmark v Switzerland. **Sept 8:** Switzerland v Belarus, Italy v Denmark. **Oct 9:** Wales v Switzerland, Belarus v Italy

Group two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Latvia	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Norway	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Greece	5	1	3	1	5	4	6
Slovenia	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Georgia	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Albania	3	0	2	1	2	3	2

RESULTS: Sept 5: Georgia 1 Albania 0 **Sept 6:** Greece 2 Slovenia 2, Norway 1 Latvia 3 **Oct 10:** Slovenia 1 Norway 2, Latvia 1 Georgia 0 **Oct 14:** Norway 2 Albania 2, Greece 3 Georgia 0; Slovenia 1 Latvia 0 **Nov 18:** Albania 0 Greece 0. **Mar 27:** Georgia 1 Slovenia 1, Greece 0 Norway 2. **Mar 31:** Latvia 0 Greece 0 **Postponed:** Slovenia v Albania.

FIXTURES: Apr 28: Albania v Latvia; Georgia v Norway. **May 30:** Norway v Georgia **June 5:** Albania v Norway, Georgia v Greece Latvia v Slovenia. **June 9:** Albania v Slovenia; Greece v Latvia. **Sept 4:** Norway v Greece: Latvia v Albania, Slovenia v Georgia. **Sept 8:** Greece v Albania; Norway v Slovenia; Georgia v Latvia. **Oct 9:** Albania v Georgia; Slovenia v Greece, Latvia v Norway

Group three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	4	3	0	1	8	2	9
Turkey	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Finland	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
N Ireland	5	1	2	2	3	8	5
Moldova	5	0	2	3	5	10	2

RESULTS: Sept 5: Finland 3 Moldova 2, Turkey 3 Northern Ireland 0 **Oct 10:** Turkey 1 Germany 0, Northern Ireland 1 Finland 0 **Oct 14:** Moldova 1 Germany 3; Turkey 1 Finland 3 **Nov 18:** Northern Ireland 2 Moldova 2. **Mar 27:** Northern Ireland 0 Germany 3, Turkey 2 Moldova 0 **Mar 31:** Germany 2 Finland 0. Moldova 0 Northern Ireland 0

FIXTURES: June 4: Germany v Moldova **June 5:** Finland v Turkey **June 9:** [illegible] v Finland. **Sept 4:** Finland v Germany, Northern Ireland v Turkey **Sept 8:** Germany v Northern Ireland; Moldova v Turkey **Oct 9:** Germany v Turkey. Finland v Northern Ireland.

Group four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Ukraine	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Iceland	5	2	3	0	5	2	9
Russia	5	2	0	3	13	8	6
Armenia	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Andorra	5	0	0	5	2	15	0

RESULTS: Sept 5: Armenia 3 Andorra 1. Ukraine 3 Russia 2; Iceland 1 France 1 **Oct 10:** Andorra 0 Ukraine 2, Russia 2 France 3, Armenia 0 Iceland 0. **Oct 14:** Ukraine 2 Armenia 0, France 2 Andorra 0, Iceland 1 Russia 0 **Mar 27:** Andorra 0 Iceland 2; Armenia 0 Russia 3. France 0 Ukraine 0. **Mar 31:** France 2 Armenia 0; Russia 6 Andorra 0. Ukraine 1 Iceland 1

FIXTURES: June 5: Ukraine v Andorra; France v Russia, Iceland v Armenia **June 9:** Andorra v France, Russia v Iceland, Armenia v Ukraine. **Sept 4:** Ukraine v France. Iceland v Andorra, Russia v Armenia. **Sept 8:** Andorra v Russia; Iceland v Ukraine; Armenia v France. **Oct 9:** France v Iceland; Russia v Ukraine, Andorra v Armenia.

Group five

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
England	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Poland	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Bulgaria	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

RESULTS: Sept 5: Sweden 2 England 1 **Sept 6:** Bulgaria 0 Poland 3 **Oct 10:** Poland 3 Luxembourg 0, England 0 Bulgaria 0 **Oct 14:** Bulgaria 0 Sweden 1, Luxembourg 0 England 3 **Mar 27:** England 3 Poland 1 **Mar 31:** Luxembourg 0 Bulgaria 2. Poland 0 Sweden 1.

FIXTURES: June 5: Poland v Bulgaria, England v Sweden **June 9:** Luxembourg v Poland, Bulgaria v England. **Sept 4:** Sweden v Bulgaria. England v Luxembourg. **Sept 8:** Luxembourg v Sweden; Poland v England **Oct 9:** Sweden v Poland **Oct 10:** Bulgaria v Luxembourg

Group six

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	3	0	1	19	4	9
Cyprus	5	3	0	2	8	8	9
Israel	4	2	1	1	10	3	7
Austria	4	2	1	1	8	11	7
San Marino	5	0	0	5	1	20	0

RESULTS: Sept 5: Austria 1 Israel 1, Cyprus 3 Spain 2 **Oct 10:** Cyprus 0 Austria 3, San Marino 0 Israel 5 **Oct 14:** Israel 1 Spain 2, San Marino 1 Austria 4 **Nov 18:** San Marino 0 Cyprus 1 **Feb 10, 1999:** Cyprus 4 San Marino 0 **Mar 27:** Spain 9 Austria 0 **Mar 31:** San Marino 0 Spain 6

FIXTURES: Apr 28: Austria v San Marino **June 5:** Spain v San Marino. **June 6:** Israel v Austria. **Sept 4:** Austria v Spain. **Sept 5:** Cyprus v Israel **Sept 8:** Spain v Cyprus, Israel v San Marino. **Oct 9:** Spain v Israel **Oct 10:** Austria v Cyprus.

Group seven

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	5	4	0	1	18	2	12
Romania	5	3	2	0	10	1	11
Hungary	5	2	2	1	11	4	8
Slovakia	5	2	2	1	7	3	8
Liechtenstein	5	1	0	4	2	22	3
Azerbaijan	5	0	0	5	1	17	0

RESULTS: Sept 2: Romania 7 Liechtenstein 0 **Sept 5:** Slovakia 3 Azerbaijan 0 **Sept 6:** Hungary 1 Portugal 3 **Oct 10:** Portugal 0 Romania 1; Liechtenstein 0 Slovakia 4; Azerbaijan 0 Hungary 4 **Oct 14:** Slovakia 0 Portugal 3: Hungary 1 Romania 1. Liechtenstein 2 Azerbaijan 1 **Mar 27:** Hungary 5 Lichtenstein 0. **Mar 31:** Azerbaijan 0 Romania 1; Liechtenstein 0 Portugal 5; Slovakia 0 Hungary 0

FIXTURES: June 5: Portugal v Slovakia. Romania v Hungary; Azerbaijan v Liechtenstein. **June 9:** Hungary v Slovakia; Portugal v Liechtenstein; Romania v Azerbaijan. **Sept 3:** Azerbaijan v Portugal. **Sept 4:** Slovakia v Romania, Liechtenstein v Hungary **Sept 8:** Romania v Portugal, Slovakia v Liechtenstein, Hungary v Azerbaijan **Oct 9:** Liechtenstein v Romania: Azerbaijan v Slovakia. **Oct 10:** Portugal v Hungary.

Group eight

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	3	2	0	1	7	1	6
Macedonia	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Yugoslavia	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Croatia	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Malta	5	0	0	5	2	18	0

RESULTS: Sept 5: Ireland 2 Croatia 0 **Sept 6:** FYR Macedonia 4 Malta 0 **Oct 10:** Malta 1 Croatia 4 **Oct 14:** Ireland 5 Malta 0 Croatia 3 FYR Macedonia 2 **Nov 18:** Malta 1 FYR Macedonia 2, Yugoslavia 1 Ireland 0 **Feb 10, 1999:** Malta 0 Yugoslavia 3 **Mar 27: Postponed:** FYR Macedonia v Ireland. Yugoslavia v Croatia **Mar 31: Postponed:** Croatia v Malta; Yugoslavia v FYR Macedonia.

FIXTURES: June 5: FYR Macedonia v Croatia; Ireland v Yugoslavia **June 9:** Yugoslavia v Malta. **Sept 4:** Croatia v Ireland **Sept 8:** Malta v Ireland; FYR Macedonia v Yugoslavia. **Oct 10:** Croatia v Yugoslavia Ireland v FYR Macedonia.

Group nine

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Rep	5	5	0	0	12	3	15
Estonia	5	2	1	2	11	9	7
Scotland	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Lithuania	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
Bosnia-Herz	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Faroe Isls	5	0	1	4	1	9	1

RESULTS: June 4: Estonia 5 Faeroe Isles 0. **Aug 20:** Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 Faeroe Isles 0 **Sept 5:** Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 Estonia 1, Lithuania 0 Scotland 0 **Sept 6:** Faeroe Isles 0 Czech Republic 1 **Oct 10:** Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 Czech Republic 3. Lithuania 0 Faeroe Isles 0, Scotland 3 Estonia 2 **Oct 14:** Lithuania 4 Bosnia-Herzegovina 2, Scotland 2 Faeroe Isles 1, Czech Republic 4 Estonia 1. **Mar 27:** Czech Republic 2 Lithuania 0 **Postponed:** Scotland v Bosnia-Herzegovina **Mar 31:** Lithuania 1 Estonia 2, Scotland 1 Czech Republic 2

FIXTURES: June 5: Bosnia-Herzegovina v Lithuania. Estonia v Czech Republic, Faeroe Isles v Scotland **June 9:** Estonia v Lithuania. Faeroe Isles v Bosnia-Herzegovina; Czech Republic v Scotland **Sept 4:** Bosnia-Herzegovina v Scotland, Faeroe Isles v Estonia; Lithuania v Czech Republic **Sept 8:** Czech Republic v Bosnia-Herzegovina. Faeroe Isles v Lithuania, Estonia v Scotland **Oct 9:** Estonia v Bosnia-Herzegovina. Czech Republic v Faeroe Isles. Scotland v Lithuania.

SWIMMING: RELAY TEAM ENDS BRITAIN'S MEDAL DROUGHT IN RECORD-BREAKING STYLE

Quicksilver quartet turns tide

FROM CRAIG LORD
IN HONG KONG

IT IS necessary to trawl back to 1932 to find the last mention of Great Britain among female freestyle relay medal-winners at world level, bronze having been won in the 4 x 100 metres at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The drought ended spectacularly at the world short-course championships here last night, when only a world record by Sweden stood between Britain and the 4 x 200 metres title.

The quartet of Karen Pickering, Nicola Jackson, Claire Huddart and Karen Legg — with Vicki Horner having helped to produce a European record in the morning heats and so being a worthy winner of a medal as reserve — earned their silver stripes in 7min 53.98sec, a Commonwealth record and 2.28sec behind Sweden, who took gold in 7min 51.70sec.

In two leaps, the Britain squad had taken a massive 5.20sec off the national record in a day. They now stand as the third-fastest of all time, behind Sweden and the discredited team from China, two of whom have since been suspended for drugs' use. China established the previous world mark of 7min 51.92sec when winning the world short-course title two years ago in Sweden.

Results 48


VINCENT YU

Thorpe, right, is congratulated by Klim, his compatriot, after winning the 200 metres freestyle title in world-record time

The day had started well for the Britain team. Jackson, a 15-year-old newcomer to the senior line-up, who holds great promise of future success at world level, was timed almost two seconds inside her British junior record at 1min 57.24sec in the morning heats. That remained the fastest split time of the day. It was a pity that the lanky schoolgirl's progress came too late for her inclusion in the individual event here.

Her effort helped the British quartet to a European record of 7min 55.51sec in the morning, and another sub-1min 58sec swim in the final, alongside a similar time from Pickering, saw them take another 2.53sec off the British record of 7min 59.18sec, also set in Sweden, when the team finished well outside the medals.

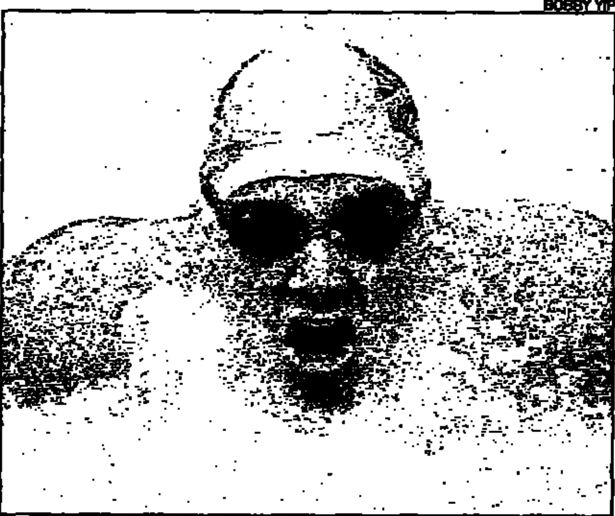
Pickering said: "It's a great start. We now know we can chase that world record. We came here hoping and believing we could win a medal and before today that would have been a good thing to achieve. But when you see how close you came to being best in the world, you feel disappointed with a silver. It's a strange feeling."

Sweden's world record was the second of the day, the first having fallen to Ian Thorpe, the 16-year-old from Sydney with the size 16 feet. He recorded 1min 43.28sec in the 200 metres freestyle, his sublime effort snatching the title from Michael Klim, his team-mate and the world long-course champion over the same distance, by 0.50sec.

Thorpe's achievement also confined the name of Giorgio Lamberti to history. Until two weeks ago, the Italian had held the longest surviving records in men's swimming, the 200 metres at both long and short-course. Then Grant Hackett, Thorpe's 18-year-old compatriot, broke the long-course record in Brisbane.

Hackett will attempt to steal the short-course standard from Thorpe by leading the Australia 4 x 200 metres team today, having failed to qualify for the individual event.

The fountain that rises from Thorpe's thunderous kick is a sight not seen in the wake of any other swimmer. Teammates admit to using tactics in heats that will qualify them for finals in any lane except the one next to him. Hackett describes racing next to Thorpe as like swimming in a waterfall, while Daniel Kowalski, the Australia No 2 over 1,500 metres, likened the experience to surfing in the wash when you miss a wave.


BOBBY YIP

Hickman powers his way to victory in the heats of the 100 metres butterfly. The Briton is favourite for gold today

Seemingly unaware and certainly not carried away by the legend that is developing around him, Thorpe said merely: "I'm very honoured and very proud to break the world record. It's great for Australia to have both long and short-course records and take an Italian right out of the books."

Klim had an excuse for his narrow defeat, even if he never uttered it. Fourteen minutes before the 200 metres, he had qualified for the final of the 100 metres butterfly, to be held today, just 0.02sec behind James Hickman, of Britain.

Hickman lowered the championship record in both the heat and semi-final, from 51.95sec to 51.78sec and then 51.51sec last night to establish himself as the title favourite, a fraction ahead of Klim and Lars Frolander, of Sweden. "I'm just warming up," Hickman said.



WEBSITE: www.fina.org
TELEVISION: Eurosport, 11.30am (live); 7pm (highlights)

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
*denotes all-ticket

FA Carling Premiership
Aston Villa v West Ham (7.45)

Nationwide League
First division
*Crewe v Birmingham (5.0)

Second division
Colchester v Preston (7.45)
Northampton v Bournemouth (7.45)
Oldham v Luton (3.30)

MONTAGUE TOURNAMENT: Under-15 International: England v China (3.0)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Fleet Town v Havant and Waterlooville, Folkestone Invicta v Ashford.
RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Canvey Island v Whyteleafe.
THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Third division: Halifax v Grimsby (at Grimsby FC, 1.0)
LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay v Caersws.
FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Leicester v Everton (1 0) **Under-17:** Nottingham Forest v Leicester (1 30).
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Jarrow Roofing v South Shields; West Auckland v Shildon.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Barnstaple; Calne v Westbury; Chippenham v Melksham, Elmore v Tiverton; Keynsham v Bishop Sutton; Mangotsfield Utd v Bristol Manor Farm

RUGBY LEAGUE

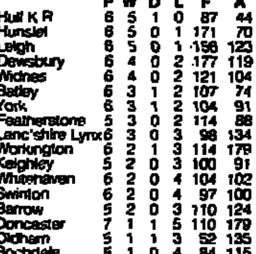
JJB Super League
Castleford v Halifax (7.30)
Gateshead v Wakefield(7.30)
London v Hull (3.30)
Salford v Warrington(3.0)
Sheffield v Huddersfield (6.0)
Wigan v St Helens (12.05)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	2	2	0	0	84	18	4
St Helens	2	2	0	0	64	34	4
*Bradford	2	2	0	0	26	9	4
London	2	2	0	0	50	38	4
Warrington	2	2	0	0	35	28	4
Wakefield	2	1	0	1	32	22	2
Halifax	2	1	0	1	31	30	2
Castleford	2	1	0	1	26	29	2
*Leeds	2	1	0	1	36	40	2
Huddersfld	2	0	0	2	32	41	0
Sheffield	2	0	0	2	26	44	0
Gateshead	2	0	0	2	35	58	0
Salford	2	0	0	2	22	52	0
Hull	2	0	0	2	9	66	0

*Not including last night's match

Northern Ford Premiership
Batley v Dewsbury (7.30)
Doncaster v Oldham (7.30)
Hull KR v York (3.0)
Hunslet v Bramley (7.30)
Keighley v Featherstone (7.30)
Lancashire Lynx v Barrow (3.0)
Leigh v Widnes (3.0)
Swinton v Rochdale (3.0)
Workington v Whitehaven (3.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull K R	6	5	1	0	87	44	11
Hunslet	6	5	0	1	171	70	10
Leigh	6	5	0	1	156	123	10
Dewsbury	6	4	0	2	177	119	8
Widnes	6	4	0	2	121	104	8
Batley	6	3	1	2	107	74	7
York	6	3	1	2	104	91	7
Featherstone	5	3	0	2	114	88	6
Lanc'shire Lynx	6	3	0	3	98	134	6
Workington	6	2	1	3	114	179	5
Keighley	5	2	0	3	100	91	4
Whitehaven	6	2	0	4	104	102	4
Swinton	6	2	0	4	97	100	4
Barrow	5	2	0	3	110	124	4
Doncaster	7	1	1	5	110	179	3
Oldham	5	1	1	3	52	135	3
Rochdale	5	1	0	4	84	115	2
Bramley	6	1	0	5	62	96	2



RUGBY UNION

AIB League
Second division
Sunday's Well v DLSP (4.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v Sheffield (2.0), Milton Keynes v Derby (4 0)

TENNIS: Davis Cup: Great Britain v United States (at NIA, Birmingham)

TELEVISION CHOICE

An heroic mouse's tale

Brambly Hedge: The High Hills
BBC1, 4.20pm

As this is a public holiday, parents should take the chance to sit with their children to watch this charming animation, the latest adaptation from the books by Jill Barklem, about a rural community of mice and their various rodent friends. A party sets off for the "High Hills" to take spare blankets to the voles before winter sets in. Narrated by Robert Lindsay and with Neil Morrissey voicing the young hero, Wilfred, it's briskly told and should not alarm even the most fearful child, although it has a fair ration of adventure and manages to confound expectations with its moral of ambition and risk-taking rewarded. It's not *Wind in the Willows*, neither is it quite Beatrix Potter, but it's a nice piece of work, perfect afternoon holiday viewing.



Brambly Hedge, a new animation based on Jill Barklem's books (BBC1, 4.20pm)

Hornblower: Frogs and Lobsters
ITV, 8pm (not Ulster)

Ioan Gruffudd is back as C.S. Forester's naval hero, and this time it looks as though he may be losing some of that rather irritating innocence, thanks to an impossibly pretty Estelle Skornik (Nicole from the Renault car ads). She is Mariette, an attractive young village maid-turned-teacher in post-Revolutionary Brittany. Hornblower is leading a detachment of sailors accompanying a rag-tag French royalist force ("the Frogs") attempting to overturn the Revolution and restore King Louis to the throne. Sam West plays the commander of British infantry ("the Lobsters"), also along to help out. As the thoroughly vicious unreconstructed overlord of Mariette's village (complete with guillotine), Antony Sher chews the scenery and spits out some ripe cod-French. Our gallant British chaps naturally acquit themselves nobly . . .

The Dark Room
BBC1, 9.30pm

This two-parter by Niall Leonard from a Minette Walters novel is as bloody as any previous Walters adaptation. Very little violence takes place on screen (at least in tonight's episode), but there are abundant sudden flashbacks which afflict the central character, Jinx Kingsley (an unrecognisable Dervla Kirwan), as she recovers from an apparent attempted suicide by car crash. Her head is shaved and there are livid scars criss-crossing it; she is in a very fancy private hospital, refusing to co-operate with a young, handsome neuro-psychiatrist (James Wilby). The story turns on what has happened to her former fiancé and her oldest friend, who have run off to get married.

Seinfeld: The Highlights
BBC2, 11.45pm

The show has been described (in this country) as "the best sitcom ever". But most viewers will never have seen it, because BBC2 consistently buries it at varying times late at night on Tuesday. Tonight's compilation was created to mark the 100th edition, in 1995. Among many odd delights, the attempts of George (Jason Alexander) to pitch a show "about nothing" to NBC stand out. It seems the pitch went down well. Kramer (Michael Richards) and Elaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) also contribute richly, but Jerry rightly remains the linchpin and comic pivot.

Tony Patrick

RADIO CHOICE

Bach: St John Passion
Radio 3, 1.50pm

This performance of Bach's religious work, written earlier than his *St Matthew Passion*, was recorded yesterday as part of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment residency at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Gustav Leonhardt, one of the great interpreters of Bach's music and one of the composer's greatest admirers, directs the performance. The soloists are Michael Chance (counter-tenor), Michael George and Stephen Varcoe (basses) and Mark Padmore (tenor). Other programmes for Good Friday include *Good Friday Liturgy* (Radio 4, 3pm), a meditation on the seven last words spoken by Christ given by Cardinal Basil Hume with the choir of Westminster Cathedral.

Journey Into Space
Radio 4, 11am

Booked your ticket for space? Nor me. We keep being told that within 30 years ordinary folk will be able to climb into a rocket for a holiday on the Moon, which raises several important questions, including: if the holiday is on the Moon, why is the luggage on Mars? This programme, shamefully, fails to provide an answer and instead describes what it is actually like to sit on top of seven tonnes of explosive and be blasted into the air at 25 times the speed of sound. Worse than one of those rides at Alton Towers, by the sound of it. The programme explains how astronauts deal with days that last only 45 minutes (hardly worth shaving for) and what zero gravity does to the body.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Westwood: Rap Show **2.00am** Fabio and Grooverider **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Songs of the Century **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.00** Des Lynam **7.00** The Michael Feinstein Songbook — Turns Another Pagee (3/8) **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night **9.15** Single and Single (6/8) **9.30** Stainer's Crucifixion. The Huddersfield Choral Society perform a classic choral work for Good Friday **10.30** Sheridan Morley **11.45** The People's Psalms (6/6) **12.00** Lynn Parsons **4.00am** Lata Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Brian Hayes **11.55** Super League. Wigan v St Helens **2.00pm** Early Drive **4.55** Friday Match. Crewe Alexandra v Birmingham City **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Alan Green's Sportsnight. Coverage of the FA Premiership clash between Aston Villa and West Ham United at Villa Park **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Motoring **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** OK! to Talk **5.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** Nicky Horne's Access all Areas **10.00** James H Reeve **1.00am** Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** James Merritt

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Focus On Faith **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway **9.20** Off the Shelf: Badland **9.35** Science in Action **10.00** World News **10.05** Speaking Of English **10.20** The Vintage Chart Show **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Focus on Faith **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Science in Action **3.30** Music Review **4.00** World News **4.05** Football Extra **4.15** Coffee - A Hellish Brew **4.30** John Peel **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Short Story **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Focus on Faith **8.00** World News **8.05** Science in Action **8.30** The Way We Are **8.45** Off the Shelf: Badland **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Music Review **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** John Peel **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Science in Action **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Meridian Books **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-up **4.30** Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easter Breakfast. Music to get the day off to a fine start **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Classic Masterpiece **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces music **2.00pm** Concerto. Haydn (Trumpet concerto in E flat) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes Afternoon Romance, Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Schutz (Easter Historia). Haydn (The Seven Last Words of our Saviour on the Cross) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music and conversation through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Haydn (Trumpet concerto in E flat) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Penny Gore with arts news and music, including a look at music for Good Friday. Pergolesi (Stabat mater); Haydn (Piano Trio in C, H XV 27); Sibelius (Finlandia)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Schumann (American Festival Overture); Ravel (Valses nobles et sentimentales); Mozart (String Quartet in F, K590); Canteloube (Songs of the Auvergne, Series 4); Ravel (La valse)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Simon Rattle
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Music Critics A profile of Neville Cardus
12.00 Composer of the Week: Reger
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Borodin Quartet. Beethoven (String Quartet in B flat, Op 130, Grosse Fuge) (r)
1.50 Bach's St John Passion Chris de Souza introduces a concert given yesterday. See Choice
4.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeaping introduces a selection of works passed off by the virtuoso violinist Fritz Kreisler as those of obscure 18th-century composers when they were, in fact, his own (r)
4.45 Music Machine To mark the end of *Music Machine*, Verity Sharp and Tommy Pearson take a trip through the archives to sample some of the enormous variety of music, musicians and experts to have featured on the programme over the past five years (r)
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Including Stamitz (Oboe Quartet in D, Op 8), performed by Terzetto and Paul Goodwin, oboe
6.00 Performance on 3: Parsifal Wagner's final music drama, in the moving new English National Opera production by Nikolaus Lehnhoff. With Kim Begley, tenor, Kathryn Harries, soprano, Gwynne Howell, bass, Jonathan Summers, baritone, ENO Chorus and Orchestra under Mark Elder. Part 1
9.05 Postscript: Rereading Auden (5/5) **9.25** Parsifal, part 2 (r)
11.00 Glenn Gould The Canadian pianist plays music written for the virginals by Byrd and Gibbons
11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Russell Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz (r)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert (r)
1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Choral Music from Latvia. Patrick Burgan (Stabat mater); Ceslovas Sasnauskas (Requiem) **2.05** J.C. Bach (Quintet in D) **2.20** J.S. Bach (Fifteen Three-Part Inventions, BWV787-801): Glenn Gould, piano **3.00** Mozart (Symphony No 41 in C, K551, Jupiter): Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra under Michael Schonwandt **3.35** Mendelssohn (Organ Sonata in A, Op 65 No 3). Martti Miettinen **4.00** Blaz Arnic (Suite about the Well): Slovenian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Lovrenc Arnic **4.40** Beethoven (Violin Sonata in G, Op 30 No 3) **5.00** Hendrik Andriessen (Miroir de Peine) **5.25** Calcara (Stabat mater) **5.35** 15th-century anon (The Bordesholm Lament of the Virgin Mary, Part 3)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today with Anna Hill
6.00 Today introduced by John Humphrys
9.00 Desert Island Discs Sue Lawley's castaway is the Oscar-winning actress Luise Rainer (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Pilate Fiona Shaw reads the final extract from Ann Wroe's new book about the the arch-villain of the Easter story
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Journey Into Space See Choice
11.30 Married Comedy drama, by Tony Bagley. Former bachelor Robin Lightfoot worries he's starting to like his new family. Starring Hugh Bonneville, Josie Lawrence and Barbara Murray (2/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer issues and public service reports, presented by Liz Barclay
1.00 The World at One
1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: J Edgar Hoover — Public Enemy by Mike Walker. Second of four plays about the anti-communist FBI director. Starring Michael Neill, John Guerrasio and William Roberts
3.00 Good Friday Liturgy: The Seven Last Words Cardinal Basil Hume leads a meditation on the final words of Jesus, with Passiontide hymns and music by Casals and Poulenc. See Choice
3.30 Rigby's Red Herrings Graeme Rigby searches for lampreys in Gloucester. Last in series (4/4) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 65 of the history of Britain, narrated by Anna Massey (r)
4.00 Open Book Humphrey Carpenter and guests talk about the latest reads (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM 6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quiz Topical quiz with the *Times* columnist Alan Coren and Andy Hamilton, hosted by Simon Hoggart
7.00 The Archers The latest from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row The author Vikram Seth discusses his new novel *An Equal Music*, a tale of lost love in London
7.45 High Days, Holy Days Actors including Leo McKern, Leslie Phillips and Denys Hawthorne read works on an Easter theme by Vera Brittain, Boswell, Kilvert and Christina Rossetti. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Any Questions? Audience members from Colne in Lancashire put questions to panellists Ron Davies, MP, Claire Fox, MP, Theresa May, MP and Alex Salmond, MP. Chaired by Nick Clarke
8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooke with another slice of stateside life
9.00 The Friday Play: Missing the Melody Karen Hope's drama about a profoundly deaf woman awaiting the results of an operation performed to restore her hearing. With Emma Fielding and Richard Hope (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: My Mother's House Janet Suzman reads the final part of Colette's story (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd chairs the sporting magazine
11.30 Nowhere to Hide Prose from Joyce Carol Oates's classic study *On Boxing*
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Age of Austerity Michael Frayn reads his ironic account of the 1951 Festival of Britain, with its uncanny forecast of the Millennium Dome
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



Far too much soap in the changing rooms





Paul Hoggart

The interwoven plotlines of **Playing the Field** (BBC1) lurched to their various denouements last night. The women's football team drama finished in a cascade of multiple climaxes, peaked by Castlefield Blues' triumph on the pitch, bringing promotion to the National League and a third series.

The show's strength lay in the fine writing and ensemble acting, both underplayed, witty, humane and sharply observed. This final episode, however, was taken up with sorting out the plot, as the tangled webs of deceit unravelled before our very eyes.

The match itself became the cathartic moment of resolution and redemption, but it was completely upstaged by the changing-room crises which preceded it. First the fiddling young entrepreneur, Ryan, was beaten up by the Mullen brothers in front of the team, including his horrified girlfriend, Jo. Then Theresa ended up telling Jo that her real dad was Geraldine's father with whom she, Theresa, had had an affair at the age of 14. This was news to Geraldine, who was listening in the doorway.

Geraldine's life fell apart on the spot. The rest of the team were gobsmacked too. Ryan decided his gob had been smacked enough and legged it, leaving coach John psyching the girls up with his pre-match peptalk. I bet Arsene Wenger and Alex Ferguson don't have to cope with this nonsense.

But then, of course, the show isn't really about football, any more than *Soldier, Soldier* was about the army, *On the Buses* was about London Transport or *Harbour Lights* is about anywhere in the known universe. All these ensemble yarns, even well written ones like this, invariably end up as domestic melodramas. They may start as something powerful, exciting or intriguing, but, like the oxen or horses of yore, they all end up as soap.

The same is certainly true of **NYPD Blue** (Channel 4). Stephen Bochco did not invent this genre. When he was planning his first big multi-plot ensemble series, *Hill Street Blues*, he made the cast watch old episodes of the BBC's *Z Cars*, which created the template. But Bochco's productions defined the style and it was *NYPD Blue* which developed the hand-held, fly-on-the-wall camerawork, interspersed with montages of raw New York life.

There is probably a neologism for these shows, "cop-u-soap" perhaps or "soap-coperas". It is a tribute to Bochco's success that the style has been so widely imitated in America and Britain that *NYPD Blue* now seems perfectly normal, verging on the quaint.

There was an investigation at the heart of last night's episode. A prostitute's "John" had been stabbed to death and robbed in a park, and detective Andy Sipowicz had to follow a trail through the evidence of a bunch of hookers, junkies, bar-flies and sleazeballs to get at the mobster responsible.

This was a brief, almost half-hearted rerun of every American big-city crime yarn you ever saw, with the rough diamond dick getting down and dirty on the mean streets. The real interest, however, was over on the set of the hospital drama, where Sipowicz's partner, detective Bobby Simone, was learning that his heart had suffered permanent damage and he would need a transplant.

Simone, of course, is played by Jimmy Smits. His glamorous good-looks make him an incongruous figure in the grubby world of the police precinct and the contrast with the short, stocky, pugnacious Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) could not be more marked.

But this is a "buddy" story, so the real interest lay in the emotional stress suffered by Sipowicz as his partner lay at death's door. It made him even more aggressive than usual.

Still, Simone's prognosis doesn't seem too bad. Sipowicz's colleagues stopped him doing anything really dumb: they managed to crack the murder case, and at least they didn't even have to play a crucial football match afterwards.

I'm thinking about having a "professional character alarm" installed on top of our television. This is a red light and siren device which will flash and sound every time a really irritating new personality appears, giving viewers the chance to change channels or leave the room before they can get under your skin.

It would have gone off during **2DIY4** (BBC2), as soon as "master carpenter" Rics Martin put in an appearance. The idea of this programme is that Rics and his colleague, the plumber Tony Elvin, will show us all how to perform simple DIY tasks by teaching members of the public in their own homes.

It's like *Ground Force* or *Home Front* without the outlandish designs. Instead they are just putting up a few shelves or changing the taps. Last night a research analyst called Nicky had a very handsome mixer tap with shower attachment fitted, while social worker Chris Mamby got a useful MDF desk and shelving combo installed in the alcove in her son's bedroom.

Although I have undertaken a wide range of DIY projects in my time, I have never attempted to change a tap unit, so I watched with something vaguely approaching interest. Tony's presentation was clear, systematic and logical and the next time this problem arises I will feel fully confident to call a plumber.

Rics, on the other hand is an insufferably chirpy cockney geezer, straight out of an Ealing comedy and horribly pleased with himself. Perhaps he will show us how to install a professional character alarm so we can switch channels before he appears.

BBC1

7.00am News; Weather (T) (5779918)
7.10 Children's BBC: Spot and His Grandparents Go to the Carnival (6440622) **7.40** Sparky's Magic Piano (7076192) **8.30** The Silver Brumby (29444) **9.00** Inch High Private Eye (7353550) **9.25** The Midas Touch (7363937) **9.55** Teletubbies (7397937) **10.20** The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends (3787260)
10.50 News; Weather (T) (8043821)
11.00 The Shadow of the Cross (51192)
12.00 The People's Passion (1956802)
12.50pm News; Weather (T) (74702208)
1.05 Battersea Dogs' Home Two lurchers are admitted (84191376)
1.25 Neighbours Susan takes on the local radio station (T) (84195192)
1.50 Back to the Future (1985) FILM Michael J. Fox stars in the blockbusting sci-fi adventure about a teenager who is transported back to the 1950s. Directed by Robert Zemeckis (T) (32600260)
3.40 L & K Mystery Toons (T) (7156444)
4.20 CHOICE **Brambly Hedge** Animated adventure for all the family (T) (7667208)
4.45 Swap 'Til You Drop (T) (481314)
5.15 News; Weather (T) (2692314)
5.40 Neighbours Susan takes on the local radio station (r) (T) (481685)
6.05 Beethoven (1992) FILM A slobbering St Bernard invades the home of an all-American family and ingratiates himself with the household. With Charles Grodin, Bonnie Hunt, Oliver Platt and David Duchovny. Directed by Brian Levant (T) (3956173)
7.30 Top of the Pops The week's chart-toppers, featuring the UK's number one single (T) (89)
8.00 Ground Force An update from Whitley Bay, where the green-fingered team revisit a family's once-neglected front garden which they transformed into a horticultural paradise (T) (8550)
8.30 Changing Rooms Redecorated The designers return to the sites of some of their earlier creations (T) (318598)
9.10 News; Weather (T) (200289)

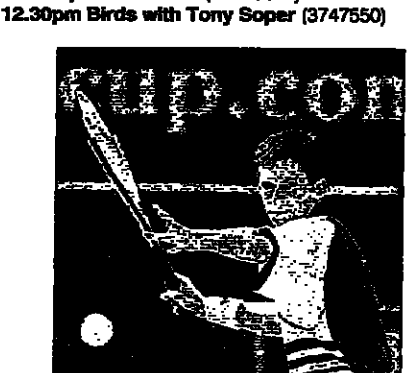


Dervla Kirwan stars as a disturbed young accident victim (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **The Dark Room** First of a two-part adaptation of Minette Walters's thriller (T) (2906685)
10.45 Parkinson Meets Woody Allen Interview with the film-maker and comedian. *Last in series (T) (551463)*
11.35 The Word on the Street People affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland (6/7) (599173)
11.50 Far and Away (1992) FILM Ron Howard's romantic drama set in the 1890s, with Tom Cruise as a poor Irish farmer forced to accompany a landowner's daughter (Nicole Kidman) to the US (T) (69342753)
2.00am Weather (5024512)
2.05 BBC News 24 (65915512)

BBC2

7.00am A Miracle of Tears (3501598)
7.45 The Old Dark House (1932) FILM Classic comedy horror starring Boris Karloff. Directed by James Whale (8450482)
8.55 Man's Favourite Sport? (1964) FILM Rock Hudson stars as a hapless salesman who is entered into an angling competition. Directed by Howard Hawks (82988666)
10.50 Kidnapped (1971) FILM Michael Caine stars as Albert Breck, who escapes the Redcoats at the massacre of Culloden and ends up having to decide between Scotland's cause or saving an innocent man's life. With Trevor Howard. Directed by Delbert Mann (20530314)
12.30pm Birds with Tony Soper (3747550)

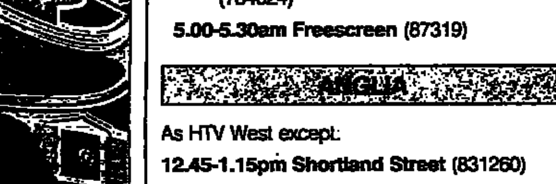


Tim Henman will be hoping to add to Britain's recent success (12.50pm)

12.50 Davis Cup Tennis: Great Britain v USA Sue Barker introduces live coverage of the first day of the singles contest at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. Britain are riding high on their 3-2 success over India in September and the American team will be well aware of the home side's determination to progress in a tournament that Britain has not won since 1936. Lining up for Britain are Tim Henman, Greg Rusedski, Miles MacLagan and Neil Broad. The US contingent consists of Todd Martin, Jim Courier, Jan Michael Gambill amd Alex O'Brien (78268918)
7.00 Lee and Herring's This Morning with Richard, Not Judy Comedy chat show hosted by Stewart Lee and Richard Herring (r) (7444)
7.30 Local Heroes Adam Hart-Davis tells the fascinating stories of scientists and inventors from Merseyside (T) (31)
8.00 As the Crow Flies Janet Street-Porter meets David Steel and Sting on the second leg of her trek (T) (6192)
8.30 Gardeners' World Alan Titchmarsh welcomes the timely arrival of spring into his Hampshire garden (T) (5227)
9.00 Murder Most Horrid Faced with the prospect of staff cutbacks, school dinner lady Tiffany Drapes decides to get rid of the opposition (T) (3463)
9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks With Bill Bailey (T) (443685)
10.15 Reality Bites (1994) FILM Drama detailing the exploits of a group of graduates struggling to cope with their different careers and complicated relationships. Starring Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke. Directed by Ben Stiller (T) (649821)
11.45 CHOICE **Seinfeld** Highlights from the first 100 shows of the popular sitcom(T) (223598)
12.30am The Bride of Frankenstein (1935) FILM Baron Frankenstein sets about building a mate for his creation. Classic horror starring Boris Karloff and Colin Clive. Directed by James Whale (T) (9865932)
1.45 Weather (2559512) **1.50** Close
3.00 BBC Learning Zone 5.00 Close

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (36444)
6.00 GMTV (2204208)
9.25 Hey Arnold! (T) (7367753)
9.50 Angry Beavers (T) (8011579)
10.20 Oggy and the Cockroaches (1941376)
10.40 The Easter Storykeepers (T) (1000550)
12.00 Crossing Rome (T) (58956)
12.30pm ITV Lunchtime News (T) (74700840)
12.43 HTV Weather (76298395)
12.45 WEST: Getaways (r) (T) (831260)
12.45 WALES: Wish You Were Here? Amsterdam, Egypt, Jamaica and the Swiss Alps (r) (T) (831260)
1.15 Daffy Duck's Egg-Citement (T) (838173)
1.45 The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965) FILM Epic drama charting the life of Jesus, starring Max von Sydow, John Wayne, Charlton Heston and Angela Lansbury. Directed by George Stevens (T) (38596111)
5.15 Living a Bug's Life Behind the scenes of the new computer-animated Disney film, which features the voice of David Hyde Pierce (2687482)
5.40 HTV News and Weather (T) (212005)
5.45 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (373227)
6.00 Mr Bean Double Bill Rowan Atkinson's comic alter-ego wreaks havoc. In *Back to School Mr Bean*, just parking the car proves too much for the hapless hero, while in *Mr Bean in Room 426*, he somehow manages to get locked out of his hotel room (68821)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Popular game show (T) (4598)
7.30 Coronation Street Leanne faces an agonising choice (T) (85)



A new adventure for the naval officer played by Ioan Gruffudd (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Hornblower** Last in the swashbuckling adventure series (4/4) (T) (2005)
10.00 Tarrant on TV The wacky world of global television (r) (59685)
10.30 Pleasure Island Two swingers tie the knot (3/6) (T) (35005)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (119666)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (734024)
11.35 Wonderful You Heather falls for her film class lecturer Alan, and Joe frets that his parents' marriage is heading for the rocks, while Henry gets a call from a record company rep keen to discuss his demo (4/7) (r) (T) (320840)
12.35am ITV at the Belfort Festival Highlights (r) (6975777)
1.35 Age of Treason (1993) FILM Bryan Brown stars as a man on a mission to find the missing son of a Roman emperor. Directed by Kevin Connor (T) (413932)
3.15 Club@vision Dance scene (4924154)
4.00 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (39446636)
4.25 Soundtrax (72114390)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25486864)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (87319)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.45-1.15pm Dinosaurs (831260)
5.15 Campus Cops (2687482)
5.40-5.45 Central News; Weather (212005)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (482735)
11.30 Midnight Caller (878647)
12.35am FILM: Age of Treason (321951)
2.20 Club@vision (7382932)
3.05 Box Office America (84807999)
3.35 The Haunted Fishtank (44239970)
4.00 Central Jobfinder '99 (7452116)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9965574)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.44pm Westcountry Weather (76298395)
12.45-1.15 The Baldy Man (831260)
5.15-5.45 Westcountry Live; Weather (473395)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (482735)
11.30-1.35 FILM: St Elmo's Fire (69328173)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.45-1.15pm Shortland Street (831260)
5.15-5.45 Meridian Tonight (473395)
7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (161227)
11.20-11.35 Meridian News; Weather (734024)
5.00-5.30am Freescreen (87319)

ANGLIA

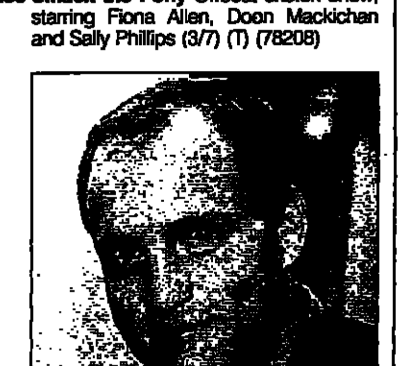
As HTV West except:
12.45-1.15pm Shortland Street (831260)
5.14 Anglia Air Watch (6822519)
5.15-5.45 Anglia News and Weather (473395)
11.19 Anglia Air Watch (628024)
11.20-11.35 Anglia News and Weather (734024)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28330579) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (21639666) **9.05 FILM: Billy Rose's Jumbo** (T) (76579050) **11.25 Boy Meets World** (T) (61304937) **11.50 Up the Creek** (T) (14147376) **12.40pm The Three Stooges** (r) (T) (42234376) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (69260802) **1.30 FILM: Scott of the Antarctic** (T) (34432181) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99683956) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99662463) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99668647) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41033260) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99682227) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49116647) **6.10 Fy Newis I** (r) (38761918) **6.30 Moby-Dick** (99663192) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41053024) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) *(49712192)* **7.45** *Offeren o Fawl (64060460)* **8.50 Y Clwb Rygbi** (T) (52 109043) **9.20 Friends** (r) (T) (57683289) **9.50 Ramsay's Boiling Point** (3/5) (T) (56980208) **10.20 Brookside** (T) (51427956) **10.55 Frasier** (T) (81487550) **11.25 So Graham Norton** (T) (87893918) **12.05am TFI Friday** (42626086) **1.15 4 Later;** Pulp (64344593) **1.30 Flava** (23112135) **2.00 The Mod Squad** (21801512) **3.00 Vids** (r) (87187654) **3.30 FILM: The Howling** (T) (60458654) **5.05 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (5300647)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (99624395)
9.05 Billy Rose's Jumbo (1962) FILM Circus musical, starring Doris Day. Directed by Charles Walters (T) (82021289)
11.25 Boy Meets World (T) (1200869)
11.50 T4orce: Sesame Street (56598)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (58444)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (55918)
1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman How the world's oceans reveal evidence of environmental change affecting the future of the planet (r) (80043)
2.00 The Vicious Circle (1957) FILM Thriller about a Harley Street surgeon who sets out to clear himself of a trumped-up murder charge. John Mills, Derek Farr and Noelle Middleton star. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (74163)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Comedy memorabilia (r) (T) (79)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (14)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7827314)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9672647)
5.30 Pet Rescue Animal welfare tales (T) (50)
6.00 TFI Friday Music and chat, with Chris Evans (66463)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (795208)
7.15 The Long Good Friday The story behind last year's peace agreement in Northern Ireland (T) (527032)
8.00 Trading Up Car-swapping game show (3/8) (T) (1260)
8.30 Brookside Susannah remembers her tragic past (T) (3145)
9.00 Friends The gang celebrate new year with a party at Monica and Rachel's flat — will they all keep their promise not to bring dates? (r) (T) (8531)
9.30 Smack the Pony Offbeat sketch show, starring Fiona Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips (3/7) (T) (78208)



Woody Harrelson pays a surprise visit to Seattle (10pm)

10.00 Frasier Woody turns up out of the blue (T) (57227)
10.30 So Graham Norton Comedy (179918)
11.10 King of the Hill Bobby signs up for the soccer team (T) (238395)
11.50 TFI Friday Shown earlier (r) (324666)
12.50am 4 Later Introduction; Pulp (1496574)
1.10 Flava The black music scene (1777067)
1.40 The Mod Squad Julie's mother arrives in Los Angeles (3050883)
2.40 Vids Offbeat video review (r) (5025241)
3.10 The Howling (1980) FILM A TV newswoman staying at a Californian retreat discovers the inmates are werewolves. Tongue-in-cheek shocker, with Dee Wallace and Patrick Macnee. Directed by Joe Dante (T) (758338)
4.45 The Audition An actor struggles to cope as the boundaries between illusion and reality become blurred (r) (42677970)
5.10 To Kill a Dead Man Film noir by trip-hop band Portishead, inspired by their love of movie soundtracks (r) (9049932)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5165869)
7.00 WideWorld Part one. The life and work of Copernicus (r) (T) (2015685)
7.30 Milkshake! (2803043)
7.35 Dappledown Farm (r) (4234956)
8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (8014289)
8.30 Witchworld; 5 News Update (8006260)
9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (T) (4978685)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (3445753)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (6034937)
10.20 Sunset Beach Antonio admits his feelings for Gabi (T) (4410111)
11.10 Leeza (r) (3182376)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8017376)
12.30pm Family Affairs Clive faces humiliation (r) (T) (5934555)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Jasmine confides in Justine (T) (2014956)
1.30 The Roseanne Show *Veronica's Closet* stars Kathy Najimy and Kirstie Alley talk to the bubbly comedian (6384096)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2318173)
2.30 Good Afternoon (8901043)
3.30 Hanover Street (1979) FILM American pilot Harrison Ford falls for a married nurse in war-torn London. With Lesley-Anne Down and Christopher Plummer. Directed by Peter Hyams (2076573)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6305840)
6.00 5 News and Sport; Weather (6302753)
6.30 Family Affairs Roy is released from prison (T) (6393005)
7.00 Knight Rider A magazine publisher is killed while working on a top-secret story and the police show little interest in the case (r) (2329289)
7.30 Animal Marvels The composer Nick Glennie-Smith unveils his symphony of animal noises (T) (6399289)
8.00 Was It Good for You? A retired Stockport couple embark on an historical tour of Tuscany (11/14) (2338937)
8.30 Nick's Quest Nick Baker discovers the plight of the South American Orinoco crocodiles (7/8) (T) (2317444)
9.00 A Family Divided (1995) FILM Faye Dunaway stars as a devoted mother whose idyll is shattered by the discovery that her son was involved in a brutal gang rape — and to make matters worse, her husband is prepared to conceal the crime from the authorities. With Cameron Bancroft and Stephen Collins. Directed by Donald Wrye (T); 5 News Update (49455111)
10.50 Lexx: The Dark Zone Stories Part one. The intrepid insect encounters an intergalactic cannibal (r) (3068444)
11.50 Improper Conduct (1993) FILM A woman is raped by her devious boss, who then sets out permanently to silence any witnesses who could blacken his name. Psychological thriller, with Steven Bauer. Directed by Jag Mundhra (2010821)
1.40am Godspell (1973) FILM Musical updating of the New Testament, set on the streets of New York (7024512)
3.25 Face the Edge (1989) FILM Two friends realise it's time that they faced up to adult responsibilities, and embark on a skiing trip together to enjoy their youthful recklessness one last time. Drama, starring Tracy Scoggins. Directed by Peter Winograd (87180680)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4389067)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6109319)

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes
The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming. Just enter the VIDEO Plus+ number(s) for the relevant programme(s) into your video recorder for easy taping.
For more details call VIDEO Plus+ on 0640 750710. Calls charged at 25p per minute at all times.
VIDEO Plus+®, 14 Blacklands Trc, London, SW3 2SP

SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (90127) **7.30** Grimmy (84444) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (79463) **8.30** Godzilla (78734) **9.00** Pokemon (82314) **9.30** Simpsons (71078) **10.00** Simpsons (67289) **10.30** Xena: Warrior Princess (65024) **11.30** Earthworm Jim (20111) **12.00** Tarzan (26869) **1.00pm** Mad About You (40668) **1.30** Jeopardy (21555) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (68918) **3.00** Jenny Jones (31227) **4.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (10734) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (5983) **6.00** Friends (4005) **6.30** Friends (8685) **7.00** Simpsons (1802) **7.30** Simpsons (4869) **8.00** Simpsons (5550) **8.30** Simpsons (9685) **9.00** World's Greatest Hoaxes (41192) **10.00** Cops I (80579) **10.30** Cops (99227) **11.00** Friends (11463) **11.30** Friends (56173) **12.00** Star Trek: Voyager (25593) **1.00am** Law and Order (33661) **2.00** Long Play (1144319)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **Chasing Amy (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Jackie Brown (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Flubber (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Kiss the Girls (1998)**

SKY PREMIER

6.00am The Incredible Journey (1963) (20005) **8.00 Matilda (1996)** (73840) **10.00 Batman and Robin (1997)** (71032) **12.00 Mission: Impossible (1996)** (63463) **2.00pm Narrow Escape (1997)** (33173) **4.00 Matilda (1996)** (3647) **6.00 Mission: Impossible (1996)** (53937) **8.00 Batman and Robin (1997)** (58482) **10.00 The Glimmer Man (1996)** (148444) **11.40 The Crow: City of Angels (1996)** (193314) **1.15am Home for the Holidays (1995)** (103633) **3.00 The Deliverance of Elaine (1996)** (54864) **4.30 Narrow Escape (1997)** (53796)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.35am Miracle in the Woods (1997) (64847314) **7.10 Mayday at 40,000 Feet (TVM 1976)** (80364550) **9.00 Fatso (1980)** (62734) **11.00 The Adventures of Pinocchio (1996)** (46918) **1.00 Mayday at 40,000 Feet (TVM 1976)** (66550) **3.00 Fatso (1980)** (87314) **5.00 The Adventures of Pinocchio (1996)** (88111) **7.00** Preview (6598) **7.30** UK Top 10 (9937) **8.00** Action Heroes: Kevin Costner (2918) **8.30** Movie Magic: Your Worst Nightmare (4753) **9.00 Intensity (1997)** (377005) **12.00 Sudden Impact (1983)** (16845) **2.00am Fear (1990)** (993338) **3.35 Adam: His Song Continues (1986)** (247048)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Pony Express (1953) (7627937) **6.00 Jesus Christ Superstar (1973)** (2908078) **8.00 Revenge of the Pink Panther (1978)** (7958573) **10.00 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (1966)** (86131531) **12.10am Big Bounce (1969)** (4111067) **2.00 Lucky Me (1954)** (5808749) **3.45 Obsession (1949)** (53787574)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Scent of Green Papaya (1993) (8750802) **8.00 Eat Drink Man Woman (1994)** (38879043) **10.10 Delicatessen (1990)** (8895647) **12.00 La Grande Bouffe (1973)** (40532932) **2.10am Like Water for Chocolate (1992)** (28599715) **4.25 Jamon Jamon (1992)** (1430203) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm WCW Nitro (65991753) **11.35** WCW Thunder (42735227) **1.30am Eye of the Devil (1967)** (44819777) **3.00 Once a Thief (1965)** (84984241) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Football League Review **7.45** What a Weekend **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Futbol Mundial **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Good Morning Sports Fans — Good Friday Special **12.00** Live Super League **2.00pm** Live Basketball **4.00** Motor Racing **4.30** World Sport Special **5.00** Super League **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** Live Football Special **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Hold the Back Page **12.00** Sports Centre **1.00am** Football Special **2.30** Super League **3.30** World Wrestling Federation. Raw **5.30** Total Sport

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Survival of the Fittest **8.15** Motor Racing **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** The Rugby Club **10.00** Motor Racing **12.00** US Golf **2.00pm** Golf: Arnold Palmer — Golf's Heart and Soul **4.00** Futbol Mundial **4.30** Live Nationwide League Football **7.00** Rugby Union **9.00** Rugby Super League **10.00** Live US Golf **12.00** Nationwide League Football **1.00am** Rugby Union **3.00** Hold the Back Page **4.00** Sports Centre **5.00** Moto-Plus **5.30** Extreme Sailing

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Trans World Sport **1.00pm** Sports Unlimited **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **3.30** Extreme Sailing **4.00** Inside the Senior PGA Tour **4.30** Baseball Max **5.30** Moto-Plus **6.00** Golf: Arnold Palmer — Golf's Heart and Soul **8.00** Basketball **10.00** Wrestling **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am US Golf **8.30** Extreme Sports **9.00** Football **10.30** Racing Line **11.30** Live Swimming **2.30pm** Football **4.00** Live Women's Tennis **5.30** Trial **6.30** Extreme Sports **7.00** Swimming **8.00** Live Women's Tennis **9.30** Boxing **10.00** Ten-Pin Bowling **11.00** Extreme Sports **12.00** Extreme Sports **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** The Thin Blue Line **9.40 FILM: Jaws (1975)** **12.05am** The Bill **1.05 FILM: Play Misty for Me (1971)** **3.00** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

5.00am Within These Walls **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart To Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



Delicatessen, a bizarre comedy from Marco Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet, set in a post-apocalyptic landscape (FilmFour, 10.10pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine on Harvey Moon **8.00** Blue Heelers **9.00** Love Hurts **10.00** The Good Sex Guide **10.30** The Screen **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** The Last Place on Earth **2.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Art Attack **9.35** Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Ned's Newt **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Teen Angel **12.00** Boy Meets World **12.30pm** Brotherly Love **1.00** Dinosaurs **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: D3: The Mighty Ducks (1996)** **8.45** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.05** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by An Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Silver Surfer **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie, Indiana **9.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.00** Goosebumps **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.40** Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **10.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **11.00** Goosebumps **11.25** Dennis and Gnasher **11.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **12.00** Goosebumps **12.25pm** Incredible Hulk **12.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **1.00** Goosebumps **1.25** Fantastic Four **1.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **2.00** Goosebumps **2.25** X-Men **2.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **3.00** Goosebumps **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Brothers Flub **7.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters **8.00** Catdog **9.00** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **11.30** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **12.00** Moesha **1.00pm** Renford Rejects **2.00** Hey Arnold! **3.00** Rugrats **3.30** Rugrats **4.30** Sister Sister **5.00** Kenan and Kel **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** USA High **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **9.00** Hang Time **9.30** Hang Time **10.00** Sweet Valley High **10.30** Sweet Valley High **11.00** Saved By the Bell: The College Years **11.30** Saved By the Bell: The College Years **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **1.00** Backstreet Boys **1.30** Backstreet Boys in Concert **3.00** City Guys **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **5.00** In the House **5.30** In the House **6.00** Ready or Not **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** USA High **7.30** USA High

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Frankenhooker (1990)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Sex with the Stars (1980)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00 FILM: Meatballs (1979)** **11.45** Lancelot Link **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** Highlander: The Raven **9.30 FILM: Waterworld (1995)** **12.00 FILM: Armageddon** **1.45am** Sci-Focus Special **2.00** Cybernet **2.30** 100 Years of Horror **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Fishing with Paul Meredith **7.00** Andy Little's Angling Adventure **7.30** Andy Little's Angling Adventure **8.00** Screaming Reels **8.30** Screaming Reels **9.00** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **9.30** Fishing Australia **10.00** Salmon Run with Jack Charlton **10.30** Salmon Run with Jack Charlton **11.00** A River Somewhere **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** A River Somewhere **12.00** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.30pm** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **1.00** Great White Shark **2.00** Go Fishing **2.30** Go Fishing **3.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **3.30** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **4.30** Andy Little's Angling Adventure

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** A River Somewhere **5.00** Searching for Lost Worlds **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Love in the Wild **7.30** Futureworld **8.00** Outback Adventures **8.30** Uncharted Africa **9.00** Wild Rides **10.00** Sky Truckers **11.00** Weapons of War **12.00** One Way Ticket to Sirius **1.00am** Searching for Lost Worlds **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** Crocodile Hunter **3.00** Crocodile Hunter **4.00** Crocodile Hunter **5.00** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** Rediscovery of the World **7.00** Crocodile Hunter **8.00** River Dinosaur **9.00** The Big Animal Show **9.30** Crocodile Hunter **10.00** Hunters: Dawn of the Dragons **11.00** Crocodile Hunter **11.30** Crocodile Hunter **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Myths and Giants **7.30** Clues to the Past **8.00** The Shark Files: The Fox and the Shark **9.00** Insectia: Myths and Legends **9.30** Hippo! **10.00** Island of the Giant Bears **11.00** Nepal: Life Among the Tigers **11.30** Primeval Islands **12.00** Seal Hunter's Cave **12.30am** The Sea Elephants Beach

HISTORY

4.00pm The Winter War: Counter-Attack **5.00** Clocks **6.00** The Quest for the Holy Lance **7.00** Story of the Gun: Next Generation **8.00** Memories of 1989

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** For Better, For Worse **10.30** Simply Baking **11.00** Simply Antony **11.30** Caribbean Light **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** French Lunch **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **2.00** Can't Stand the Heat **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Food Factory **3.30** A Taste of England **4.00** A Year at Ballymaloe **4.30** Retrospectives **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.25** Johnson and Friends **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Babaloos **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** The Heat Is On **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30 FILM: The Day Christ Died (1980)** **5.10** The Heat Is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Saved By the Light (1995)** **11.00** The Spicy Sex Files **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Guldasta **6.00** Sorry Meri Lorry **6.30** Mast Must Show **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** Music Mag **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Adhikar **10.00** Yeh Zindagi **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM** **3.00pm** Bangla TV **3.30** It's My Choice **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Cha Cha Cha **5.00** Zee Zone 2 **5.30** Amanat **6.00** Artist of the Fortnight **6.30** Zee TV Showcase **7.00** Chasme Baddoor **7.30** Entertainment Express **8.00** News **8.30** Aashirwad **9.30 FILM** **12.00** News **12.30am** Ru-Ba-Ru **1.00** X-Zone **2.00 FILM**



RUGBY UNION 50
Will King rule in the game of two halves?

SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 2 1999

SWIMMING 54
Records fall as Britain open medal account



Davis Cup draw favours hosts

Britain look to Henman for inspiration

By Alix Ramsay, tennis correspondent

THE easy part is over. The draw for Great Britain's first tie in the world group of the Davis Cup since 1992 went without a hitch yesterday. Now it is down to Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski to do the rest. Today they begin their grand adventure against the United States with Henman starting proceedings against Jim Courier, followed by Rusedski against Todd Martin.

DRAW

TODAY: Singles (1pm): Tim Henman v Jim Courier, Greg Rusedski v Todd Martin.
TOMORROW: Doubles (4pm): Henman and Rusedski v Courier and Alex O'Brien
SUNDAY: Singles (2pm): Henman v Martin, Rusedski v Courier
TELEVISION: Live on BBC2 from 12 50pm.
WEBSITES: www.lta.org.uk; www.daviscup.com

In theory, the draw has fallen well for Britain, with the chance to get the first point on the board there for the taking — Henman is ranked No 7 in the world, while Courier lingers at No 54 — but the Davis Cup is different from any other tennis tournament and the weight of expectation will sit heavy on Henman's shoulders.

This is the realisation of David Lloyd's ambition. In 1995, Britain were struggling to stay in the Euro-African zone group two, the equivalent of the Nationwide League third division in football, and playing Monaco in a relegation tie. Britain won 5-0, but it was not much to celebrate. Then Lloyd, as Davis Cup captain, announced that within three years his team would be in the world group, the Premiership of tennis. While the potential of Henman and Rusedski was obvious, it was the sort of prediction that even Kevin Keegan would hesitate to make.

"When we played Monaco, we were starting out at rock bottom and we appreciated that," Henman said. "We knew we were on a mission to get back into the world group. But I think that, with Greg's and my ability, we don't just want to settle for the first round. I think that with a little bit of luck, we firmly believe we can go all the way."

Yesterday the players and captain were gung-ho, but no one was underplaying the tension of the situation. They are professionals, they are experienced, but they are as prone to nerves as the next man.

"You are excited and you are nervous before you play a match, but, if anything, the easy bit is playing," Henman said. "You are out there, you're running around and, hopefully, you're in control of the situation. When you're on the sidelines watching, you're 100 per cent behind your team but there is nothing you can actually do."

Henman and Rusedski will have all the help they could wish for. The 9,400 seats at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham are sold and the faithful have been provided with rattles, banners, flags and any number of patriotic tokens with which to wave, make noise and generally get behind their team. Not that it seems to have made any impression on the Americans.



Lloyd: unusually cautious

Martin and Courier sat impassively as the Davis Cup banner fell off the wall behind them and landed in their laps. "I'm assuming this is a bigger deal, perhaps, than Britain's other ties leading into this," Courier said, without a flicker of a smile, "but we just go about our business of preparing and probably we are sheltered from what you are witnessing and experiencing. We have a job to do. We come here, we prepare and try to do our job and that's it."

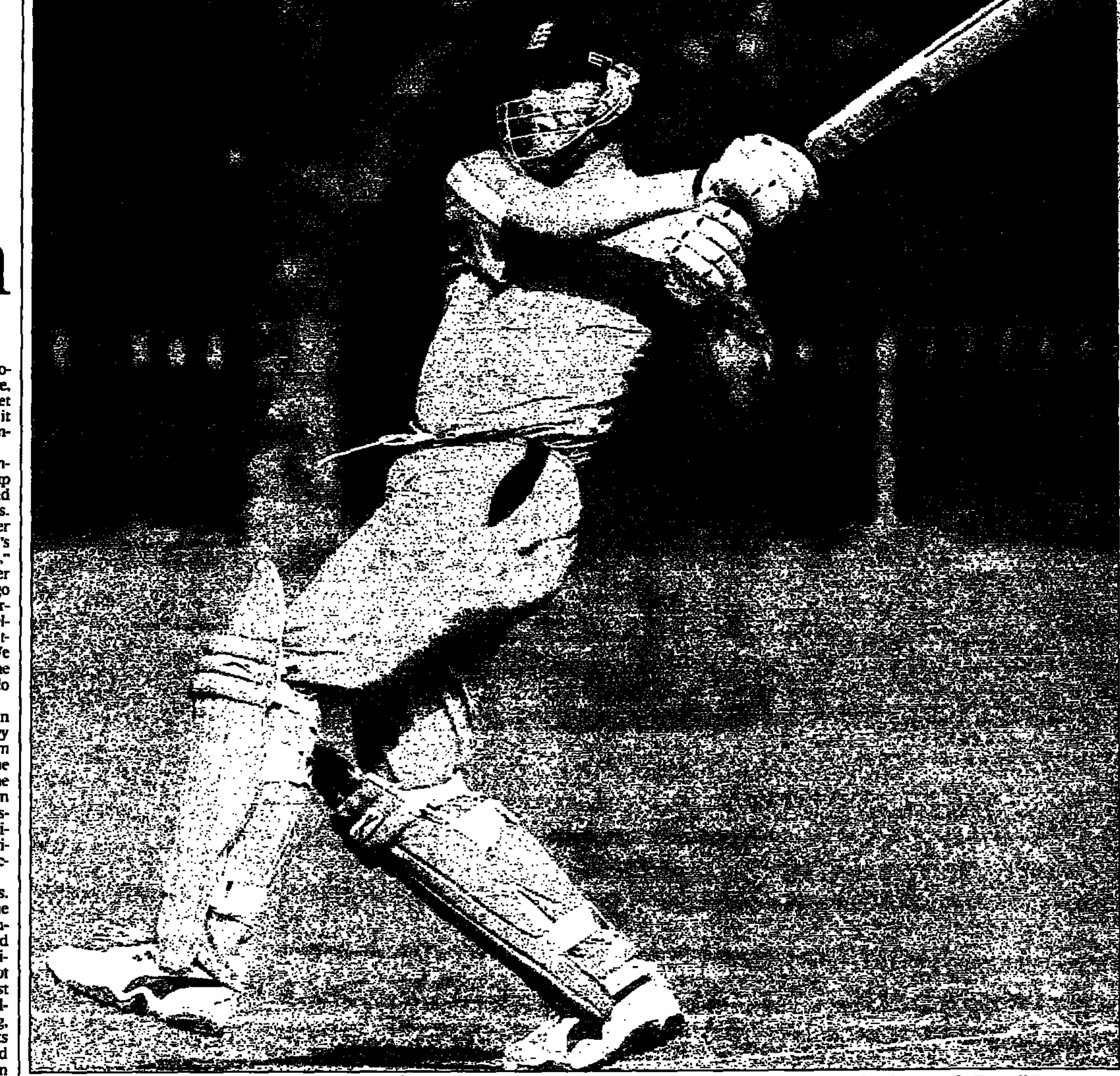
Neither Courier nor Martin are big on emotion, but they have come to Birmingham with a point to prove. In the lead-up to the tie, much of the attention has been focused on Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi and their refusal to participate, while Martin and Courier have been branded as second-string players.

That, though, is dangerous. Both are climbing back up the rankings after a series of injuries and while Martin, ranked No 8, has risen faster, Courier's Davis Cup efforts cannot be ignored. Last year, against Russia, he took Yevgeny Kafelnikov to five sets before losing, but came back from two sets down to beat Marat Safin and settle the tie. He did it again against Belgium, winning the opening rubber and then the tie in a five-set doubles match with Martin.

Serving power — and the ability to deal with it — will be the key. The indoor Greenset surface is fast enough to let Henman and Rusedski show off their serving prowess, but not so fast that they will struggle to make returns. Martin believes that it will get faster once the arena is full and warm.

In all the excitement, no one was mentioning the fact that Henman and Rusedski have an 11-2 losing record against Martin and Courier and Lloyd, the eternal optimist, was unusually cautious. "You can't predict Davis Cup," he said. "You can only predict it at about ten minutes past one when they have hit the first ball, then you know what is going to happen." And then it really will be up to Henman and Rusedski to do the rest.

Rob Hughes, page 51



Flintoff pulls Robert Croft for four during an innings of 112 from 67 balls that embarrassed the England attack. Photograph: Russell Boyce

Flintoff flourishes at Fraser's expense

By Richard Hobson

THE England selectors had every reason to feel that they had made an inspired choice in naming Andrew Flintoff in the World Cup squad last night after the Lancashire all-rounder scored 112 from 67 balls in the first warm-up fixture. Unfortunately, Flintoff struck the runs against his own bowlers.

Along with Vince Wells, he was playing for a Lahore Gymkhana side, to allow all of the party match practice ahead of the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah next week, itself a "net" before the tournament in England. Angus Fraser bowled for England despite not being in the batting XI.

Quite apart from his evident good form, it might be as well for the morale of the bowlers if the strapping Flintoff is promoted to the first-choice team. He hit seven sixes and 11 fours during an innings lasting 127 minutes and forced Fraser out of the picturesque ground twice in a single over.

Once Adam Hollioake had bowled Flintoff with a yorker, England progressed to victory by 137 runs. Their own total of 375 for five from 50 overs featured half-centuries by Alec Stewart, Graeme Hick, Neil Fairbrother and Adam Hollioake. All four retired to allow the lower order opportunities with the bat.

Flintoff, 21, is the youngest player in the England squad and the only member of the party yet to appear in a one-day international. Although he made his Test debut against South Africa last season, he struggled to impose himself during the victories at Trent Bridge and Headingley. Elevation to the highest level may have arrived too soon.

However, his powerful strokeplay came to the fore on the A tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa, where the management were also impressed that Flintoff had responded to instructions from David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, by slimming from 19st to less than 17st and improving his all-round fitness.

Along with the third seamer's role, the pivotal positions at No 6 and No 7 are the most open in the side and Flintoff is putting pressure on Hollioake, who is a canny operator but was disappointing in the recent one-day tournament in Australia. He has also opened the batting for Lancashire in limited-overs cricket and bowls at a useful medium pace.

England have nine or ten games — depending on whether they reach the Coca-Cola Cup final — before the World Cup proper begins against Sri Lanka on May 14. Flintoff can expect to be given an opportunity in at least one of the two day-night matches against Pakistan A this weekend. These fixtures will present a far more searching examination than yesterday of England's capabilities.

Keegan moves to calm fears he will abandon England

By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

KEVIN KEEGAN moved last night to soothe fears that England's bleak prospects of qualifying automatically for the European championship next summer might force him to abandon his role as part-time national coach at the end of his initial four-match period at the helm.

Sweden's 1-0 victory over Poland in Katowice on Wednesday night increased their lead at the top of group five to five points and almost certainly condemned England to chasing a place in the two-leg play-offs for runners-up in November.

That means that Keegan, who will review his position after England's tie in Bulgaria on June 9, would have to take time off from four Fulham matches next season, rather than the two occasioned by the scheduled fixtures against Poland and Luxembourg in September that England had, perhaps naively, been anticipating.

Such is his loyalty to Fulham and his concern not to abuse the opportunity they have given him that many thought, in the aftermath of the Swedish victory, that the prospect of a four-match commitment might prove to be too daunting.

However, Keegan, who led England to a 3-1 victory over Poland at Wembley last Saturday that began to repair some of the damage caused by Glenn Hoddle, hinted last night — with the usual riders and caveats — that he would see the job through, at least until the end of the play-offs.

"The prospect of the play-offs does not change my position," he said. "I have still not said 100 per cent whether I will be staying or going. All I have said is we will wait and see. That has not altered by England being in the play-offs.

"That is a long way off. A lot could happen and there are a lot of options to consider. I struck a deal, which my club agreed to, that I would do the England job until the end of the season and it is not right for me to start working on anything else just yet.

"We have time to talk everything through and when we are on the plane home from Sofia in June after the match against Bulgaria, we will have a clearer idea of what is going to happen."

The reality of the situation is that England need Keegan and his inspiration now more than ever. Sweden's victory over the Poles certainly dampened the euphoria surrounding Keegan's arrival and served as a reminder that it will take more than one morale-boosting victory to usher in a new era.

GROUP FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
England	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Poland	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Bulgaria	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

RESULTS: Sept 5: Sweden 2 England 1. Sept 6: Bulgaria 0 Poland 3. Oct 10: Poland 3 Luxembourg 0; England 0 Bulgaria 0. Oct 14: Bulgaria 0 Sweden 1, Luxembourg 0 England 3. Mar 27: England 3 Poland 1. Mar 31: Luxembourg 0 Bulgaria 2; Poland 0 Sweden 1

FIXTURES: June 5: Poland v Bulgaria; England v Sweden. June 9: Luxembourg v Poland, Bulgaria v England. Sept 4: Sweden v Bulgaria; England v Luxembourg. Sept 8: Luxembourg v Sweden; Poland v England. Oct 9: Sweden v Poland. Oct 10: Bulgaria v Luxembourg.

England's chances of qualifying for Euro 2000 are not dead, but hopes of finishing top of the group are close to being extinguished. Sweden have played their hardest games already and can afford to lose at Wembley on June 5 and still be confident of finishing on top of the group.

"Sweden have come out of the blocks so quickly it already looks as if the rest of us are playing for second place," Keegan said. "It just shows that at this level you cannot afford slip-ups, because as soon as we lost to Sweden and drew at home to Bulgaria, a situation was developing which was out of our hands. Now it is completely out of our hands.

"But from the moment I came into the job, I knew there was a chance this could happen. You hope you will be lucky, but really this was very predictable.

"We just have to try to get there any way we can. At least we would be there and we have to try to be positive and say that no one remembers who does well in the qualifying heats for the 100 metres at an Olympic Games. I am not saying those guys don't try, but it is all about the final, the big event.

"Football is the same. Look at Denmark. They came off a beach to play in the European championship in 1992, when Yugoslavia were suspended, and went away as winners.

"Our job is to make sure we stay ahead of Bulgaria and Poland and give ourselves that same chance. There was always a possibility this could happen.

"It has happened. Now it is up to us to deal with it and be ready to pounce if Sweden do slip up."

McAllister misery, page 53
Villa take back door, page 53

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1681

ACROSS
1 Put up with (6)
4 Shock absorber (6)
8 Dead body for meat (7)
10 Warm and sticky (5)
11 Unfriendly, severe (4)
12 Without worries (8)
14 Exuberantly cheerful (9)
18 Disruptive change (8)
20 Highest noble rank (4)
22 Broad comedy: ludicrous event (5)
23 Tanned skin (7)
24 Distant (6)
25 (House) floor (6)

DOWN
1 Leave (eg union) (6)
2 A strengthening metal tip (7)
3 Formal test (4)
5 Ignored (8)
6 Thigh bone (5)
7 Recover from pawn (6)
9 Paper, not electronic, post *(slang)* (5,4)
13 Capital of Hungary (8)
15 More difficult, rugged (7)
16 Dunce (6)
17 Be disloyal to (6)
19 Collection of wives (5)
21 James —, steam engine pioneer (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1680
ACROSS: 1 Haggis 4 Offend 8 Acme 9 Immolate 10 Termagant 13 Bligh 15 Houri 16 Joker 18 Open-ended 21 Garfield 22 Able 23 Dinner 24 Revere
DOWN: 1 Health 2 Gimcrack 3 Swing 5 Frostbite 6 Elan 7 Drench 11 Aphrodite 12 Azure 14 Inedible 16 Jagged 17 Adhere 19 Nadir 20 Bran

Jumbo Times Two Crossword, page XX

